



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, August 16, 2026 | Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

MAY GOD BE
GRACIOUS TO US
AND BLESS US.

PSALM 67:1



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.

PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN 542 | Christ Is the World's True Light

St. Joan

1 Christ is the world's true Light, its Cap-tain of sal - va - tion,
2 In Christ all rac - es meet, their an-cient feuds for - get - ting;
3 One Lord, in one great Name u - nite us all who own thee;

the Day - star clear and bright of ev - ery race and na - tion;
the whole round world com - plete, from sun-rise to its set - ting;
cast out our pride and shame that hin - der to en - throne thee;

new life, new hope a - wakes, for all who own his sway:
when Christ is throned as Lord all shall for - sake their fear,
the world has wait - ed long, has tra - vailed long in pain;

free - dom her bond - age breaks, and night is turned to day.
to plough-share beat the sword, to prun - ing - hook the spear.
to heal its an - cient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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**

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

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 for ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,

for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant--

these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalm 67 | *The Nations Called to Praise God*

May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
**for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

10:30 a.m. service

Reader: *A reading from 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.

1 God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright - ness of thy
 2 Let thy peo - ple praise thee, Lord; be by all that live a -

face. Shine up - on us, Sa - vior, shine, fill thy
 dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing glo - ry

Church with light di - vine, and thy sav - ing health ex -
 to their Sa - vior King; let all be, be - low, a -

tend un - to earth's re - mot - est end.
 bove, one in joy, and light, and love.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 15: 21-28

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

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

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.**

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eousness,

Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

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

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

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.

(continued)

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Lord, today, tomorrow and always, our spirits are called to attention by Your Presence. We are asked to be witnesses of Your Truth in our society today. We are called to attest to the sovereignty of God. We ask forgiveness for our disregard for others and our complacency about the problems in our world. Let us see and receive Your love and mercy, which are the real treasures of the soul. **May we hear and respond to the voice of the Lord**

We ask our Lord's blessing on our national, state and local governments and for the gift of wisdom and leadership for our President, and all our elected representatives. We also pray for our spiritual leaders: : our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia. We lift up the worldwide Church in the light of God, especially The Church in Wales in the Anglican Communion and our sister parishes in the Diocese of Maryland. **Lord we are one Body in Christ**

We welcome all those visitors or newcomers, who worship with us today. We are enriched by your presence and hope that our music, praise, prayers and Eucharist have brought you peace and joy. We extend our warmest wishes and hope to see you again. **Lord we are so grateful for our Community of faith**

We pray for those who are ill in body, mind or spirit, especially Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those you now name. May they be given health and wholeness and may they feel the love and care of Christ always in their lives. We also ask our Lord's help for those who are homeless, jobless or those struggling with family problems. Give each person the strength and courage to meet each day, trusting in the power of God to work in all our lives. **Lord reach out and heal those in need**

We remember those who have died and entered the eternal kingdom of God, especially Yvonne & Baron Forbes and Alta Thomann. May light perpetual shine on them and may the grace of God surround them forever. Our thoughts and prayers are with the grieving families and friends who have lost someone dear to them. Let the joy of the Lord bring them through into the wonder of life. **Lord let us live in faith and hope**

Today we celebrate occasions of joy in our Parish, especially the birthdays of Zion, Luke, Kerica, Kathy & George, wedding anniversaries of Denis & Cindy Read and Earle & Cheryl Cummins, and baptismal anniversaries of Levi, Karikari & Dennis. We are so blest by the people in our congregation, who love and serve the Lord together. **Let us praise God**

Christ's gift of abundant grace is powerful and perfected, as we rely on it in our weakness. Let us spread the Gospel to all who open their hearts and minds to listen and to change. Let us be the hands of Christ in the world. **AMEN**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

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

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

THE PEACE |

Celebrant:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People:

And also with you.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY HYMN LEVAS 107 | There's Something About That Name

Bill & Gloria Gaither

Please scan to give.



Je-sus, Je-sus, Je - sus! There's just some - thing a - bout that

name! Mas - ter, Sav - ior, Je - sus! Like the fra-grance

af - ter the rain. Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! Let all

heav - en and earth pro - claim: Kings and king - doms will

all pass a - way, but there's some - thing a - bout that name!

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.

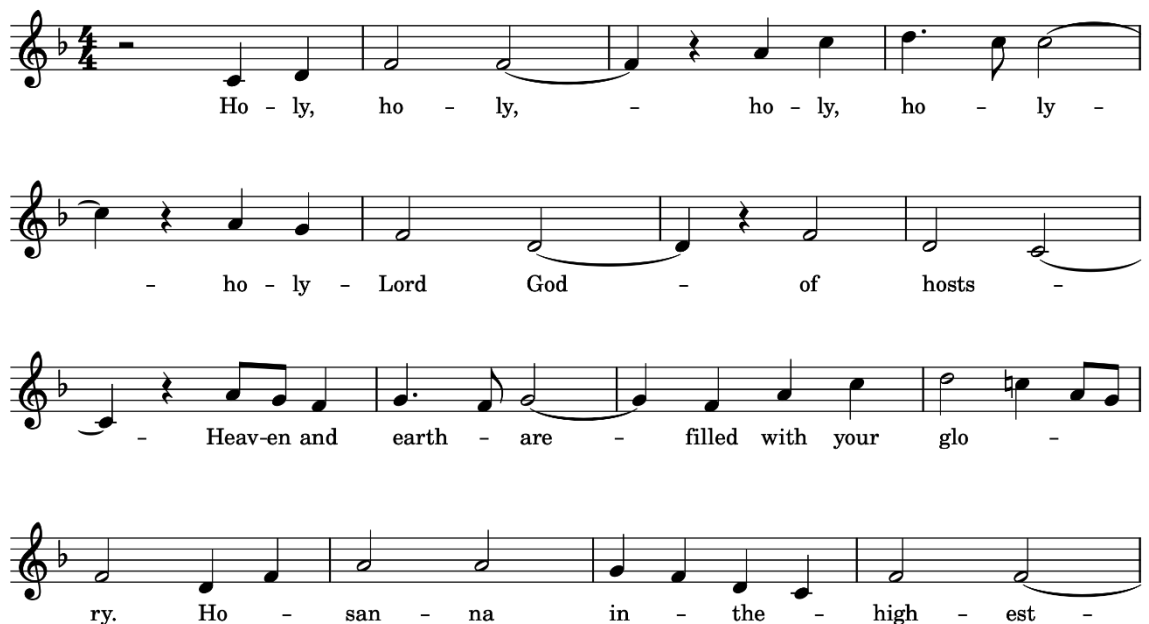
People: We lift them to the Lord.

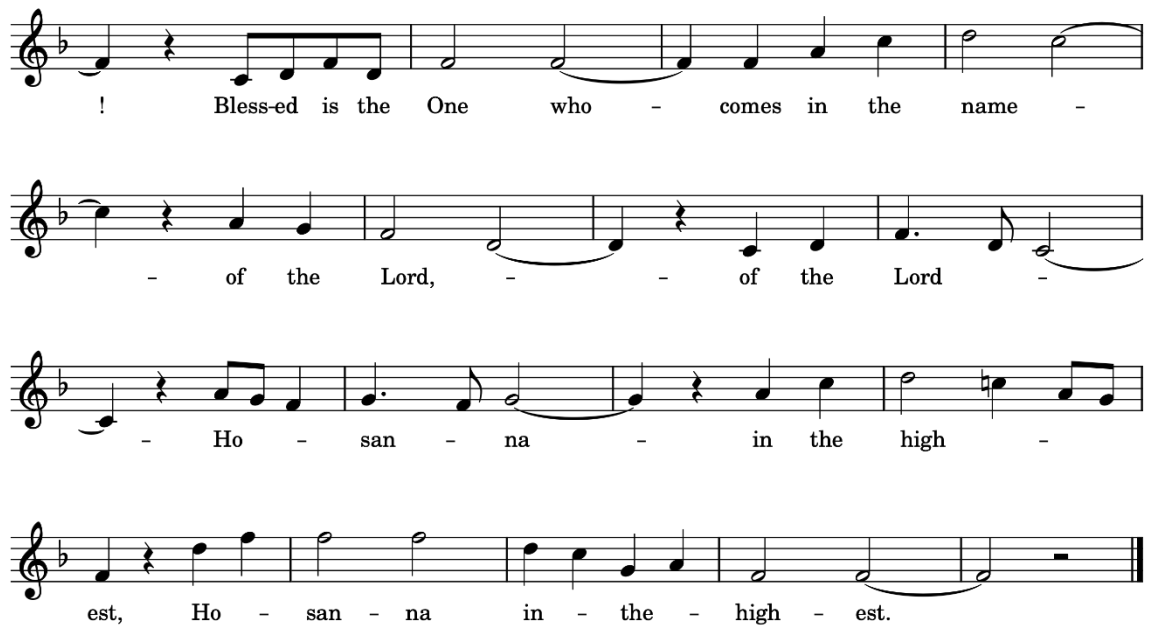
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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





Holy 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."

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 has risen.
 Christ will come again.

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: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

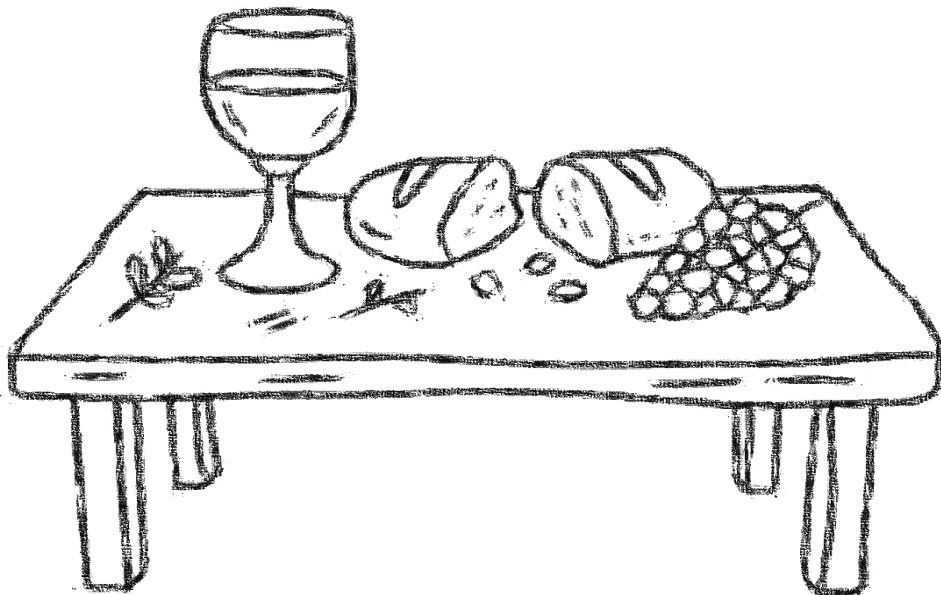
People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

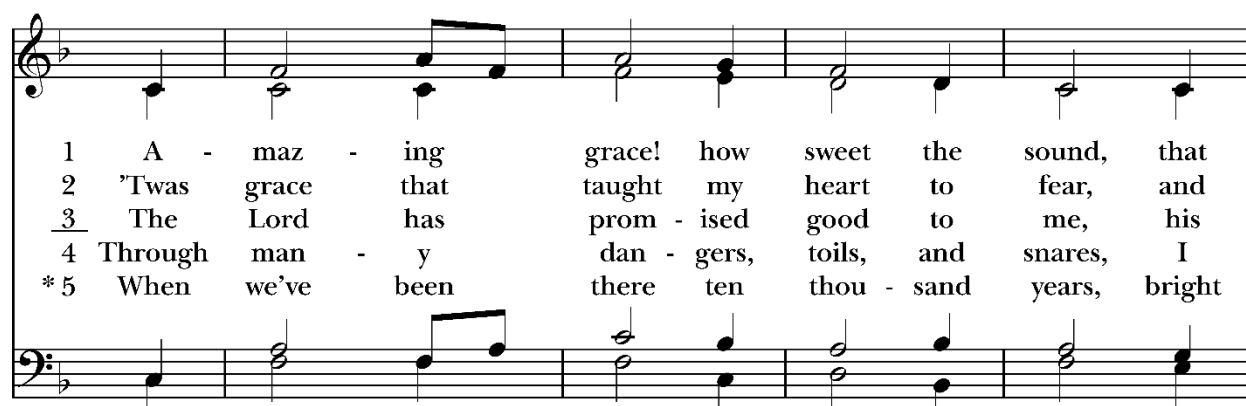
FRACTION ANTHEM LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

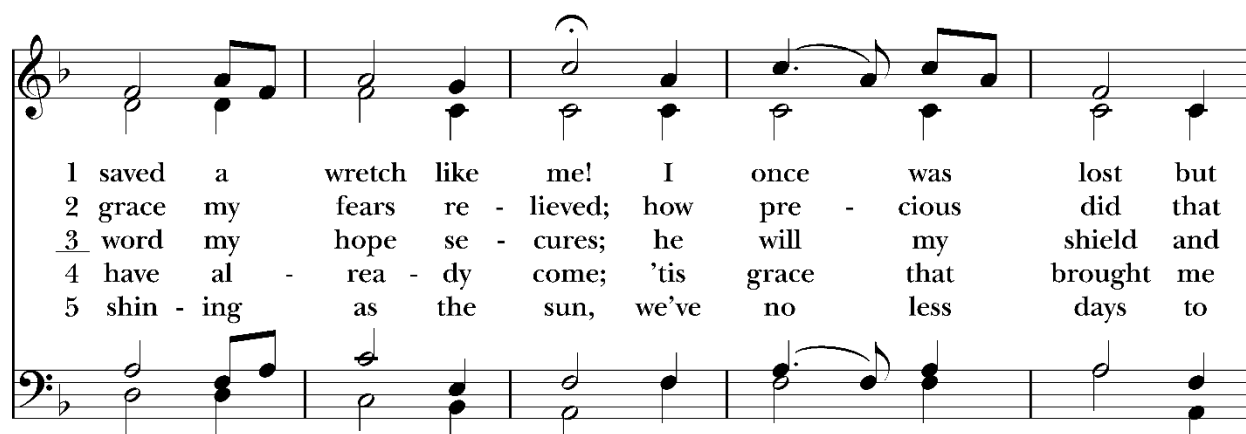
organ

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.

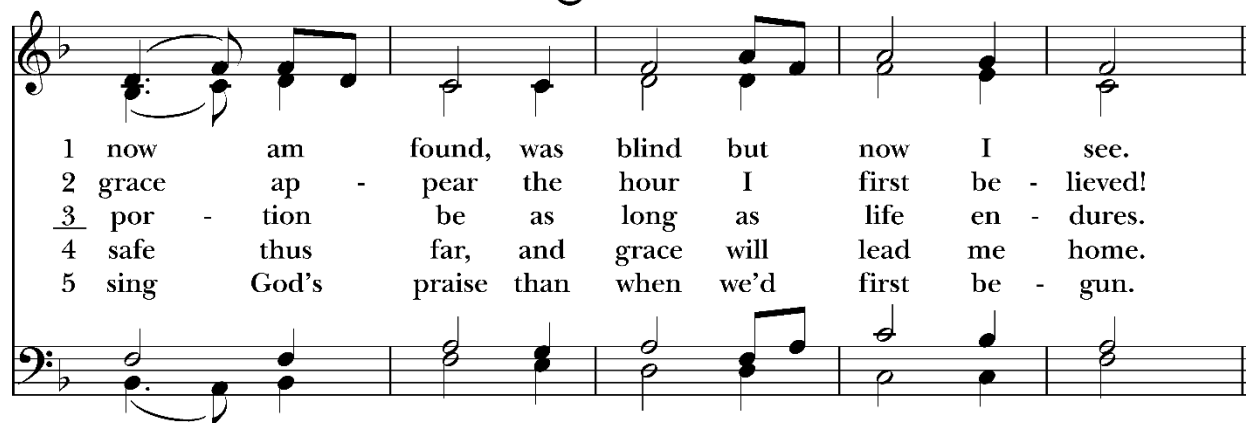




1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 *5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 397 | Now Thank We All Our God

Nun danket alle Gott

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ever more.

THE DISMISSAL |

The Celebrant dismisses the people who respond.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Ivy Amponsah, Sonni Aribiah, Jai Fatodu, Kathy Simms

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Joan Harvey

Lector/Reader: Joan Harvey

Usher: Jo Emily Knox

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Abby Boyer, Daniel Jackson, Lucas Hernandez

Chalicerist: Ivy Amponsah, Cheryl Lucente

Lector/Reader: Cheryl Lucente

Ushers: Cherry Williams, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Tellers

Catherine Miller, Lisa Taitt-Wynter

PARISH CALENDAR AUGUST 16 – 22, 2026

Sunday, August 16

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:00 am	Family Service
9:30 – 10:15 am	Acolyte Training – New Brick, UL
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Hour - Zoom
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, August 17

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, August 18

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour - Zoom
1:00 – 10:00 pm	IRC Prep – Parish Hall, LL
7:30 – 9:30 pm	300 Yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, August 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Theology on Tap – Frisco & the Reckless Shepherd
7:00 – 9:00 pm	300 Yr Leadership Committee Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, August 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	300 Yr Liturgy & Worship Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, August 21

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

Saturday, August 22

8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Vision & Strategy Committee Meeting – New Brick, LL
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Total Restoration Church Event – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

And remember... today is the deadline!

MINISTRY LEADERS:

Submit your flyer or trifold info
by August 16 to Chris at
communications@christchurchcolumbia.org



**Parish Festival
& Ministry Fair
Sunday, August 30**

**Learn about your church...
JOIN OUR COMMON LIFE!**



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

Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - MINISTRY MATERIALS DEADLINE IS TODAY!

Ministry leaders, this is your opportunity to speak with every parishioner about your beloved ministry and get them to join and assist your group in the coming year. If you have had a ministry trifold or flyer in the past, please prepare any new information to send to Chris by today, August 16, so that he can get you an updated document in time for the Fair. And if your ministry would like a flyer or trifold but hasn't had one before, please email him at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org so he can arrange a time to discuss it with you.

It's Almost Time for Sunday School!

From Autumn through Spring, Faith Formation is thriving at Christ Church, and anyone from pre-K to 12th grade is invited to gather with us next fall. It's a program of age-appropriate classes that's relevant and engaging, and we're looking forward to an exciting year! The next Sunday School year begins on September 13, and registration links are on [our website's Sunday School page](#). Our Youth and Family Ministry is growing—an amazing blessing—but it also means we need a little help. Right now, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to step into our preschool Sunday School classrooms for the next program year, beginning in September. You don't need a degree in theology, of course, just a warm heart and a willingness to share God's love with our littlest ones. The curriculum and all supplies are provided for you, and we have a team of clergy and leaders to help you get started and support you along the way. If you can help us fill these spots, please speak with Mother Marcia Davenport at church or email revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org. You can also call the Church Office to see when she is in her office.

Let Love Lead You to Consider Joining the Christ Church Vestry

The nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun! This year, four (4) slots are open, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and a giving member of record at Christ Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to help 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 18. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org, and they will let you know what's needed for this process. You can also pick up a special *Let Love Lead* flyer in the Narthex, [or download a copy here](#). It outlines the responsibilities and commitments of a Vestry member to help you guide your decision. Thank you for your consideration.

Celebration of the Life of Alta Thomann - Wednesday, August 19

We recently shared the sad news of the passing of beloved parishioner Alta Thomann with you. Alta passed away peacefully yesterday afternoon, surrounded by loved ones.

Next Wednesday, there will be a Celebration of Life service for Alta in the New Brick sanctuary. The memorial service will include Communion, followed by a repast in the Great Hall. Alta gave much to our common life and to the Columbia community, and we hope that everyone will gather with us.

Theology on Tap - Next Wednesday, August 19

Join us for brew and banter, suds and spoken word, lager and laughs... no matter what you call it, Theology on Tap is a fun,

informal get-together where we can chat about interesting religious, spiritual, or social articles of the day, grab a beverage or snack, and enjoy fun, engaging, structure-free conversation with other parishioners and friends. We like to use this time to speak about things that might be considered a bit casual or light for a Sunday morning at church, but that matter to us, and we want to hear others' perspectives on them. If this sounds interesting to you, it's your kind of gathering! Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19 at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia. If you have any questions, please speak with any MOCC member or email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

2026 Auction Assistance is Needed! How About YOU? Join the Intro Zoom Session Next Thursday, August 20

Yes, it's early, but planning a great annual auction takes months, and we need help soon! As we gear up for our 2026 Annual Auction—***A Night in the Emerald City***—we need your energy, ideas, and enthusiasm to make it an unforgettable evening. An event like this takes a village, and we are looking for volunteers to help coordinate behind the scenes. Whether you have an hour a week to spare or want to take on a larger role, there is a place for you on the team, and we hope that you'll join us for a few minutes next Thursday at 11:00 a.m. - **the Zoom link is HERE**, Meeting ID is **849 0595 4090**, and Passcode is **Emerald**. And if you cannot join us but want to learn more, let us know! Email auction@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Friday Film Feature - August 21

Later in August, the film *What Dreams May Come* will be screened in the lower level of the Church Office building. Although a fantasy drama with little Biblical grounding, this film speaks to the power of Love to triumph over adversity. It had a global release when it was made, and stars Robin Williams in what was, for him, an unconventional role. Gather at 7:00 p.m. on August 21 for this favorably received film, one whose main character discovers a beautiful afterlife shaped by his imagination, and is inspired by his overwhelming love.

Sign Up to Bring Lunch for the Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - Sunday, August 30

The Christ Church Parish Festival & Ministry Fair, an annual tradition, is back! There's only one worship service that day, August 30, so join us in the New Brick sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! We'll have BBQ goodies, fun for all ages, and an opportunity to learn about the many ministries that make Christ Church a very special place. **AND SIGN UP** to bring items for our community lunch! There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, **or you can do so online here**. Choose from meals, sides, or dessert, and bring tasty treats for everyone.

The 2026 Flea Market - September 19

Soon, it'll be time for that wonderful Columbia summertime tradition, the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. This year, it's on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date 9/26), and takes place on the Christ Church campus. And vendors - **you can reserve your spaces now!** This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. There will be housewares, jewelry, books, clothing, tasty baked treats, grilled goodies, and so much more! Whether you're a vendor or a participant, you can learn more on our website, which goes live today - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the year, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist on Thursdays in Old Brick. A member of 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 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.

We Always Need More Help at Christ Church

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, it requires a great deal of work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish it is. You can help your church by volunteering as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild. None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in assisting, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Yetti.

Christ Church Donates to Episcopal Relief & Development to Help Washington State Residents Displaced by Raging Wildfires

Wildfires in eastern Washington state have destroyed hundreds of homes and forced the evacuation of 60,000 people in the Spokane area. In response, **Episcopal Relief & Development** (ERD), partnered last week with the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane to help those in harm's way.

Churches in the diocese are providing shelter, food, fuel, and cash assistance through gift cards, according to ERD's **post on August 7**. ERD's partners "quickly moved into action, ministering to people and families from surrounding communities who have been driven from their homes by the fires and forced to evacuate." These include tribal communities near Yakima.

ERD also offers people seeking comfort and hope an online resource in the form of its **prayer hub**. There you'll find prayers **in a time of disaster** and **prayers amid crisis**. Please join in praying for those harmed by natural disasters.

Outreach Commission members approved a \$500 contribution to ERD for wildfire relief. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Thank you!

Donation to World Central Kitchen Will Aid Victims of Colombian Earthquake

In Colombia, a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck the Pacific Coast on Monday, trapping people in collapsed buildings. An **Aug. 10 report by NBC News** noted a growing number of lives lost and disruption to hospitals, roads, aqueducts, energy, and telecommunications.

At its August meeting, the Outreach Commission approved a \$500 donation to **World Central Kitchen** (WCK) to aid victims. WCK was on the ground in Colombia immediately, handing meals directly to families in the hardest-hit areas, according to **a WCK post** on Aug. 11. Thanks to parishioners' pledges and contributions to Christ Church, Outreach can draw upon Vestry-approved funds each year for disaster aid. The donations are in keeping with our mission to help those in need -- locally, nationally, and internationally.

LEMS Block Party - Saturday, August 22

We need help at the LEMS Block Party on Saturday, August 22, so if you can, please meet at church on Saturday at 9:30 to load up the school supplies and transport them to the school. We also need help at the Christ Episcopal Church Block Party Table from 11:00 to 2:00. If you can come for even an hour between 9:30 and 2:00, please let us know! Speak with Cathy Whittaker, Jan Deboissiere, Sara Kirkpatrick, Jenny Cecil, or email us at LEMSPC@christchurchcolumbia.org. Also, even if you can't come, please give to LEMS so that we can provide even more school supplies and support the teachers. You can write a check with LEMS in the memo line or give online using the drop-down menu labeled LEMS. **Please visit the Christ Church website to read all the details.**



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*
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*
Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*
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