CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

Sunday, September 26, 2021



ISAAC GBENGA OLAJIDE

LEARN MORE ABOUT HIM ON PAGE 14

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

WITH HOLY BAPTISM The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

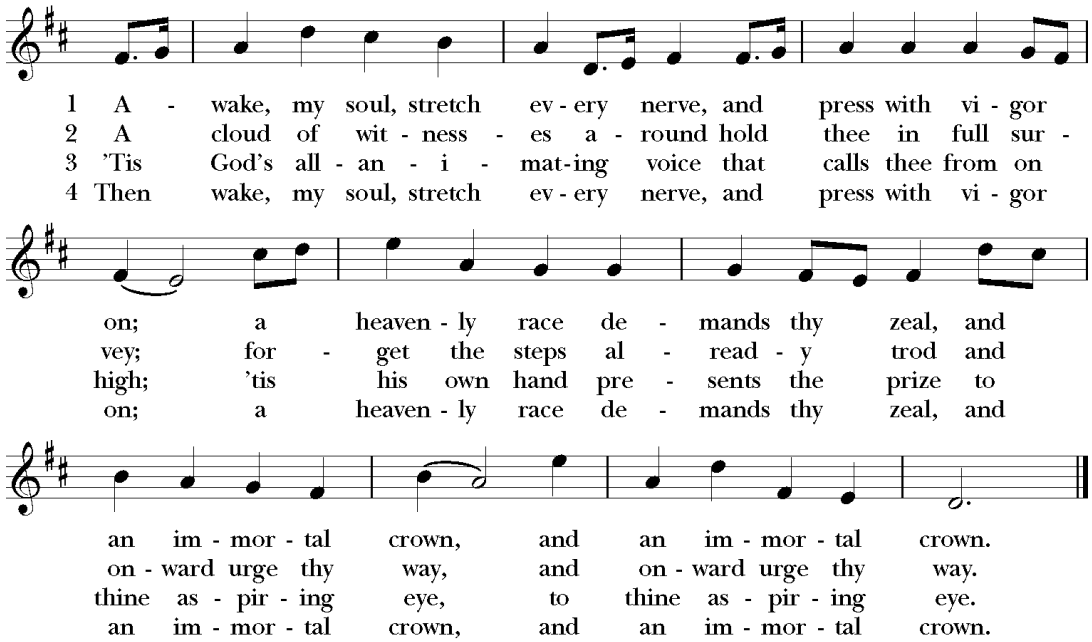
Sunday, September 26, 2021 | 10:30 a.m.

You may stream this service from Christ Church's website, YouTube, or Facebook pages

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN - 546 *Siroe*



Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;
People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People: **One God and Father of all.**

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;
People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

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

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

PSALM 124 ***Nisi quia Dominus***

If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

THE EPISTLE James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

The people stand as able.


1 Com - mit thou all that grieves thee and fills thy heart with
2 O trust the Lord then whol - ly, if thou wouldst be se -
3 Thy last - ing truth and mer - cy, O Fa - ther, see a -
4 Hope on, then, bro - ken spi - rit; hope on, be not a -
care to him whose faith - ful mer - cy the
cure; his work must thou con - sid - er for
right the needs of all thy chil - dren, their
fraid: fear not the griefs that plague thee and
skies a - bove de - clare, who gives the winds their
thy work to en - dure. What prof - it doth it
an - guish or de - light: what lov - ing wis - dom
keep thy heart dis - mayed: thy God, in his great
cours - es, who points the clouds their way; 'tis
bring thee to pine in grief and care? God
choos - eth, re - deem - ing might will do, and
mer - cy, will save thee, hold thee fast, and
he will guide thy foot - steps and be thy staff and stay.
ev - er sends his bless - ing in an - swer to thy prayer.
bring to sure ful - fill - ment thy coun - sel good and true.
in his own time grant thee the sun of joy at last.

THE GOSPEL Mark 9:38-50

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

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

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

SERMON The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer

The people stand as able.

HOLY BAPTISM

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

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

Parents and Godparents: I present *Wisdom Kelechi Opiri* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The celebrant then addresses the congregation:

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?
People: **We will.**

Celebrant: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

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

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

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

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

People: **I will, with God's help.**

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

People: **I will, with God's help.**

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

People: **I will, with God's help.**

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

People: **I will, with God's help.**

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

People: **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

Celebrant: Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

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

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

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

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

Celebrant: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

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

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

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

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

THE BAPTISM

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

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

The celebrant continues:

Let us pray.

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

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

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

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

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

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

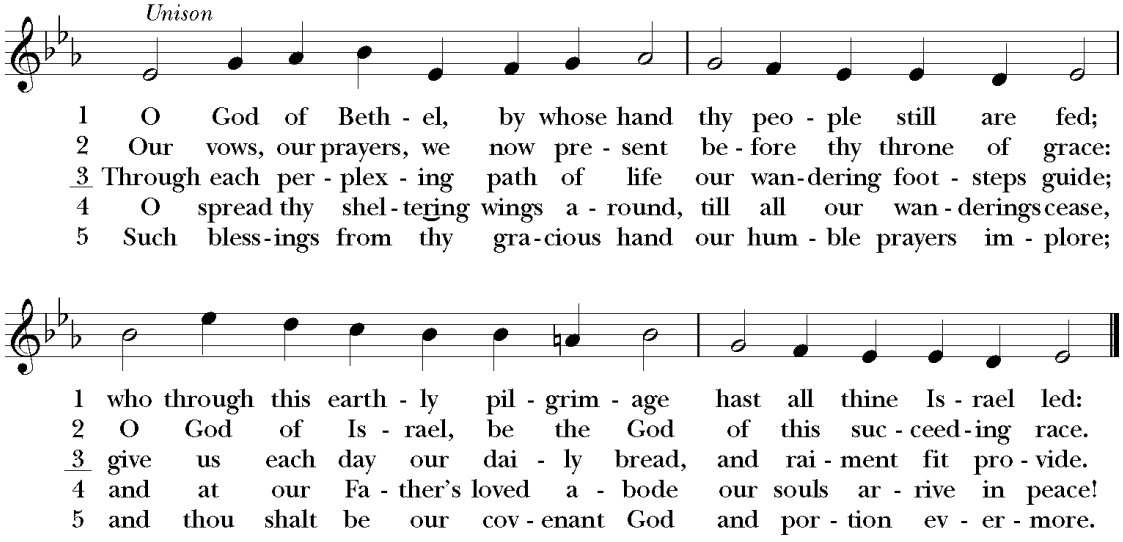
The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated

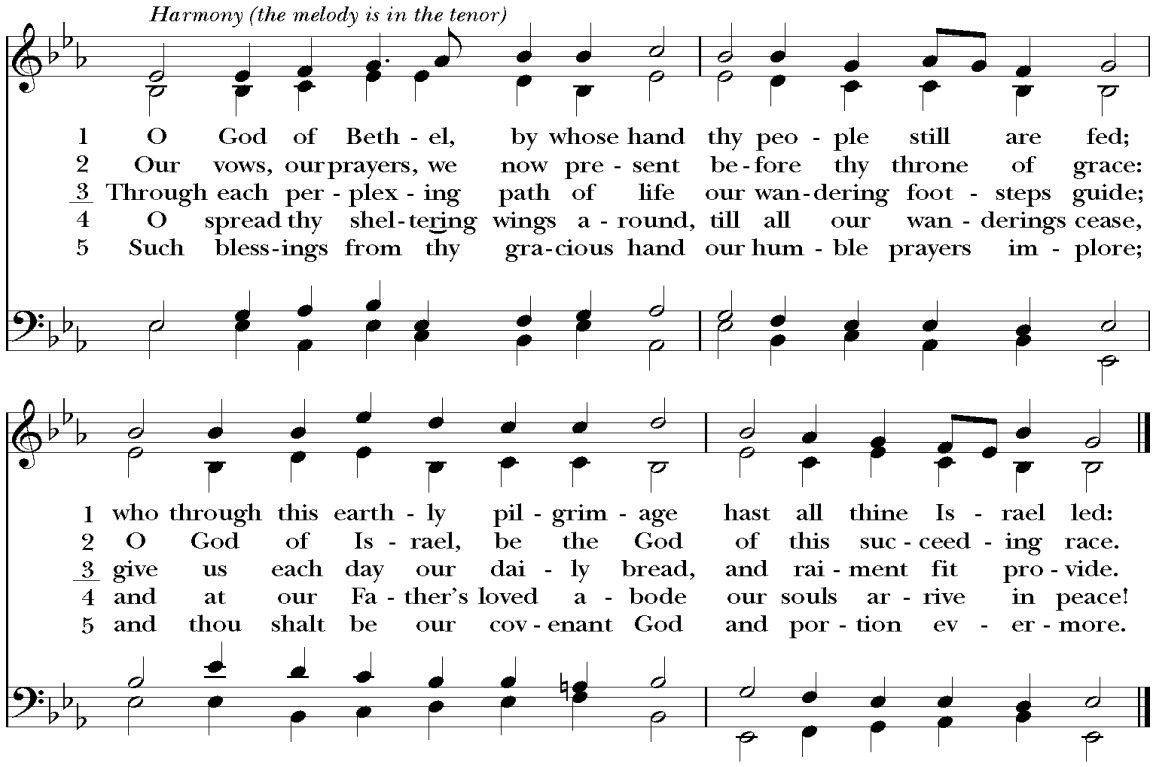
Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn - 709

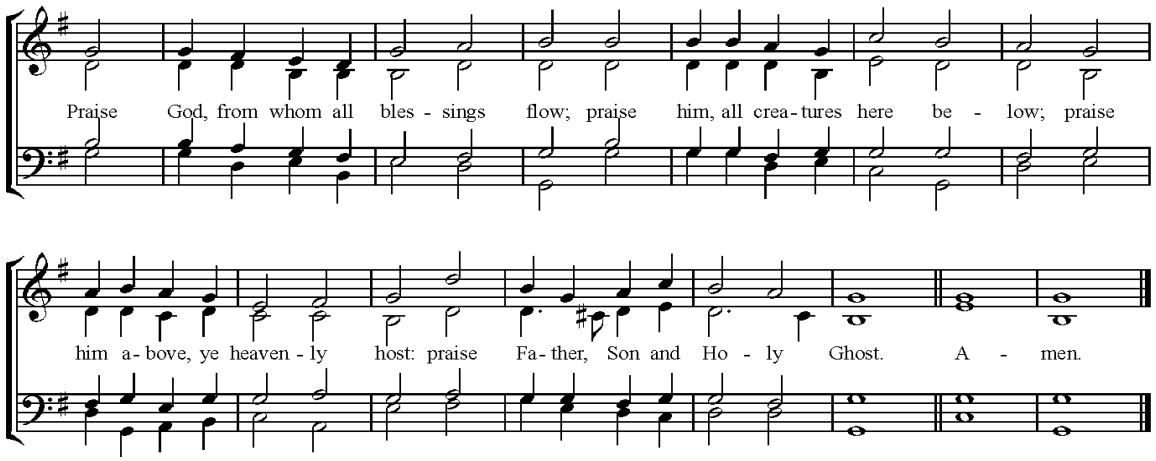
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EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,**
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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."

Celebrant: 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

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

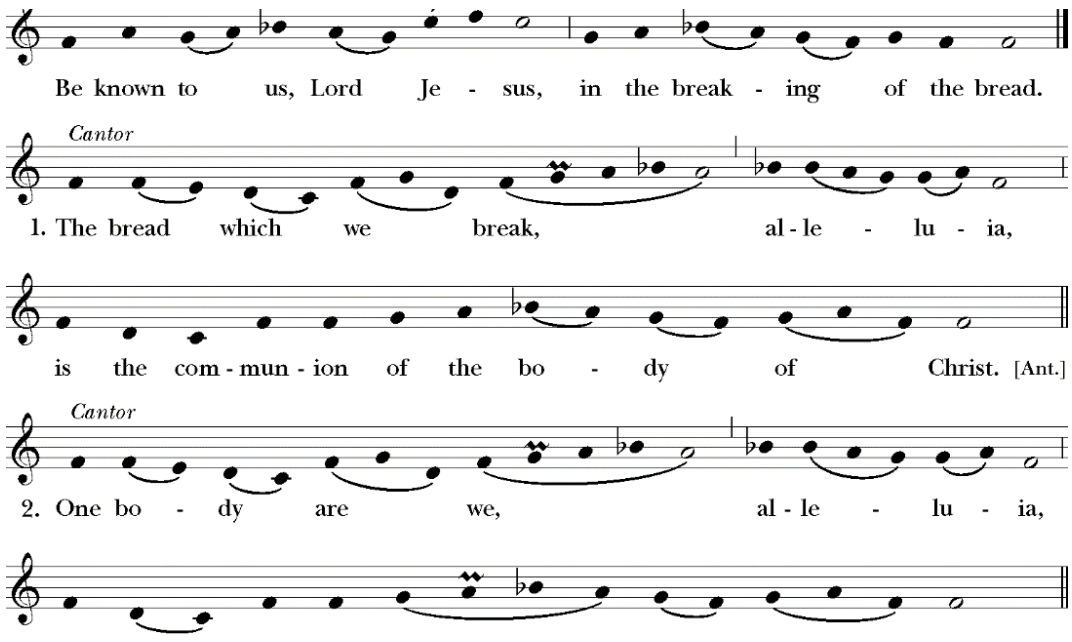
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

Mode 6 melody; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)



Communion Hymn – WLP 819



Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

The Blessing

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

Closing Hymn - 344

Sicilian Mariners



Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the people, who respond:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Newly Baptized Candidate
Wisdom Kelechi Opiri
The Organist for today's 10:30 worship is Nelda Clelland

PERMISSIONS

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | Book of Common Prayer, 1979, Church Publishing. Public Domain. |" Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve." Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) Music: Siroë, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. Melodia Sacra, 1815 Meter: 86. 866 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #1049702 | Gloria. Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Public Domain. Words: Latin; tr. J. Clifford Evers (b. 1916) Music: Cheshire, melody, and bass from The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1592, alt.; harm. Hymns III, 1979 Meter: LM Public Domain | "Commit thou all that grieves thee." Words: Paulus Gerhardt (1607-1676); tr. Arthur William Farlander (1898-1952) and Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt. Music: Herzlich tut mich verlangen [Passion Chorale], Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612); adapt. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) Meter: 76. 76. D Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #28277 | "O God of Bethel, by whose hand." Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt. Music: Dundee, melody from The CL Psalmes of David, 1615; fauxbourdon The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635 Meter: CM Public Domain | Doxology "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow." Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510? -1561). Text, music Public Domain. | Fraction Anthem. Copyright © 1985, Church Publishing, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-701378. All rights reserved. |" Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race." Music: African-American spiritual, arr. Carl Harris, Jr. (b. 1935) Public Domain | "Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing." Words: Att. to John Fawcett (1739/40-1817) Music: Sicilian Mariners, Sicilian melody; first published The European Magazine and London Review, 1792, alt. Meter: 87. 87. 87 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #98002. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Bible Study: Wednesdays | Bible Study is back to gathering in person each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and will be a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. Next week's gathering focuses on these readings. You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and let's all study together. If you're interested, simply gather with us on Wednesday morning in the Great Hall.

Christ Church Book Club Returns: Fridays | Our Book Club is again gathering virtually this Friday from 7:30 to 9 p.m., and our first read is *What Did Jesus Ask?* a collection of essays by theologians and notable people on questions asked by Jesus in the New Testament. You can find this book at the usual retailers or download this week's essays here. Please email Ellen Hoke at efboudreau1@gmail.com if you have any questions. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is 894 0227 6226 and the Password is CECbooks. After this book, we will discuss *The Dream of God* by Verna Dozier. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion.

WOCC Meeting: October 4th | The WOCC's next monthly meeting will take place on Monday, October 4th, at 1:00 pm. Once again, we will be meeting via the Zoom meeting app, which is free and available for sign-up on www.Zoom.us. Please go to their site and sign up prior to the meeting. If you're a woman 18 and older, you're already a member of the WOCC, so feel free to join us! The Zoom link is here, the meeting ID is 843 0204 4790 and the password is cecWOCC.

The WOCC is also invited to a special Labyrinth Walk at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City on Monday, | October 11th. You can read more about this wonderful outdoor feature and the event details on our website.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, October 17th | Please mark your calendars - the Christ Church Annual Meeting takes place on Sunday, October 17th, following Holy Eucharist. This year, it will be a hybrid event that can be attended in person or online via Zoom. During this meeting, we will elect several new Vestry members, and the candidates are Tim Beaty, Jan DeBoissierre, Simone Kolnik, Isaac Olajide, Alfred Titus-Glover, and George Toth. You can read more about each candidate on our website later this month. If you are a CEC committee or ministry leader, please submit your Annual Report submissions to our Communications Administrator, Chris, at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org no later than Thursday, September 30th. Thank you.

Donate to the Christ Church Auction! Deadline is October 10th | The 32nd Annual Christ Church Auction is almost here. The success of our largest fundraiser of the year depends entirely on the efforts of YOU, our parish family. We ask that you please submit your donation any time between now and Sunday, October 10th, at our special Auction website, https://christepiscopalchurch.schoolauction.net/auction2021/donate_items/new. Donors can either fill out the donation form there (one form per donated item, please) or you can email the CEC Auction Committee at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org and let them know about your items. Some suggested donations are: gourmet and cultural dinners, getaway vacations, home accessories, artwork, personal services, handmade jewelry, seasonal crafts, home accessories, food and wine baskets, handcrafted cards, children's gifts, and so many more things. If you have any questions or would like some donation ideas, please email us at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org

Diocese of Maryland's Delta Phase Update | Howard County continues in the Orange Phase at this time, and you can read the latest Diocesan message here. We continue our dialogue with the appropriate organizations and ease restrictions with care and consideration as conditions warrant. We also continue to welcome your feedback and thoughts via the brief, confidential questionnaire located here, and the latest information, links, and updates are on the Summer Re-Gathering page of our website.

September is Hunger Action Month | As Fall arrives, several agencies that help to feed the hungry are reminding everyone that we're in the midst of a month dedicated to addressing food insecurity. September is Hunger Action Month. Howard County Executive Calvin Ball stated this week that despite the wealthy demographics in our county, one in four residents struggles to make ends meet. Ball joined Bita Dayhoff, president of the Community Action Council of Howard County, in the aisles of the nonprofit organization's Howard County Food Bank, for a video that can be seen on the county government's YouTube channel. They pointed out several facts you may not know, including that the Food Bank has a garden and that it offers nutritional education.

What's more, it partners with another nonprofit to help serve people who require gluten-free and allergy-friendly food items, which can be more costly than ordinary groceries. That organization is the S.A.F.E. Food Pantry. New and current clients can receive pre-bagged, safe food items when they check-in at the Howard County Food Bank for their monthly visits. Or there's an alternative, thanks to a separate partnership with Columbia Community Care (CCC). On the third Saturday of each month, S.A.F.E. distributes gluten-free and allergy-friendly food items at the CCC site at Oakland Mills Middle School (OMMS), 9540 Kilimanjaro Rd., Columbia, MD 21045. The S.A.F.E. table operates on the same timeframe as the CCC site: Volunteers and donation dropoff begins at 9 a.m.; food distribution goes from 10 a.m. to noon. If you have gluten-free or other safe foods to donate, you can bring them without making advance arrangements. Or, if you or others whom you know need these items, please come to OMMS on the next distribution day, Saturday, Oct. 23.

Help Christ Church to Go for Gold While Helping Bridges To End Homelessness | Bridges to Housing Stability once again is hosting a virtual fund-raising event to support programs that help individuals and families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in Howard County. Bridges Executive Director Jennifer Broderick, LCSW, explains the importance of stable housing and how Chili & Challenge helps make it happen. Watch a 2-minute video.

You can support this event in three ways (the first two will help Christ Church compete for the Golden Ladle!!): 1) purchase meal tickets ($20 each), a portion of which ($12) will be donated to Bridges; 2) donate directly; and 3) participate in Bridges' virtual silent auction online. The congregation that raises the most money through 1 & 2 above (meal ticket proceeds and/or direct donations) by Friday, October 8, will win the Golden Ladle. Two runners-up will win silver ladles (as Christ Church did in 2020, shown in this photo). Go for the Gold and prevent homelessness by using this link to purchase meal tickets and/or donate directly: |

1) Bare Bones Grill and Bar is providing three delicious chilis (beef, chicken, and vegetarian) this year with cornbread and coleslaw. Chili meals are available for purchase at the link above until Monday, October 4, 2021. *All meals must be picked up curbside between 12 – 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 10th.* The pickup will take place not at the restaurant but at Bridges' office building parking lot, 9520 Berger Rd., Columbia, MD 21045.

2) If you want to donate toward Bridges' $12,000 goal for its operations and housing programs, please do so by Friday, October 8th, through the Christ Episcopal Church link above. If you prefer to donate via check, please make it out to Bridges to Housing Stability (not to Christ Church) and note "Christ Episcopal Church/Chili & Challenge" in the memo line. You must get it to Christ Church by Wednesday, October 6th, so that we can take checks to Bridges in time to count toward our total on October 8th.

3) Bridges' virtual silent auction is being hosted by "Charity Auctions Today" between 8 a.m. Tuesday, October 5th and 8 p.m. Sunday, October 10th. Please see the Christ Church event page on Bridges' website and future *Gatherings* notices for updated information.

Alternatively, you can go to Bridges' website directly to purchase meal tickets and/or donate. If you are purchasing meals, you can click on the congregation you are supporting in an information section after saying how many meals you want. If you are donating directly, you can enter "Christ Episcopal Church/Chili & Challenge" in the donor scroll box. If you do not want it to show publicly, click on the box.

Please go to our website's Outreach Blog for a complete update of this week's activities.



2022 Stewardship Campaign
Pledge Cards are Now Available

We are so excited about the Stewardship Campaign for 2022. Thank you for supporting our 2021 campaign. As we all know, the past couple of years have been terribly difficult for everyone, but through it all, each one of you has been very generous to your beloved Christ Church. We mailed out our Annual Stewardship Pledge Cards to you this week and we hope that you will join us on November 7th for Pledge Sunday celebration. In addition to that, you may also pledge online at www.christchurchcolumbia.org. We will also have pledge cards in the narthex for those who do not receive their pledge cards in the mail. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider your support to Christ Church in the coming year.

Text Giving

You can now 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 towards your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our overview page for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org

THANK YOU.

VESTRY CANDIDATE – Isaac Gbenga Olajide



Greetings to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My name is Isaac Gbenga Olajide, and I was born into an Anglican/Episcopalian family in the Southwest area of Nigeria. My father, Joshua Olajide, was a Patron of St. Peter's Anglican Church, a role he diligently fulfilled for over 50 years till his passing into glory in 2014. Even my late mother, Princess Emily Olajide, was not just an outstanding member of the church. My mother was active in the Women Ministry throughout her lifetime.

Having a strong foundation in Christ was important in my life. Since I only spent my elementary school years with my biological parents, the rest of my childhood life was with different family members. I am proud to say that each of these experiences has brought me even closer to God. After I graduated from the Pharmacy School, I did a lot of volunteer jobs including holding community health fair with other health care professionals. I was also the Secretary of Rotary Club of Badagry in Nigeria between 1990 and 1991. I moved to the United States in late 1991 and in 1995, I got married to my darling wife, Janet Olajide, at Saint Paul Episcopal Church in Brookline, Massachusetts. Thank God, the marriage is blessed with three beautiful children, Emily, Esther, and Emmanuel. I need to mention that my wife's parents are both Ministers of God in the Anglican Community.

I also need to say that my association with Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia was divinely orchestrated. When my wife and I were going through pre-marriage counseling sessions in Boston, the officiating Rector asked where my wife and I planned to settle down after the wedding and we mentioned Columbia. The Rector told us that he will make recommendation after all the counseling sessions were completed of a home church where we can grow, enjoy, and serve God. At the last pre-marriage counseling session, the Rector did tell us about an Episcopal Church in Columbia, the Rector went on by sharing the good news about the great people of God here at Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia. Since then, I have been an active member of this great congregation.

Professionally, I'm a registered pharmacist and licensed in both the State of Maryland and the State of Florida. For over 10 years, I worked as a staff Pharmacist with Rite-Aid Corporation and later became a Pharmacy manager. In 2002, I established my own Retail Pharmacy operation in Baltimore, Maryland. Both my wife and I serve in various volunteer capacities in the community. Currently, I am an active volunteer with the State of Maryland Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene as a Pharmacist Volunteer for the Emergency Respond Team on bioterrorism immediately after September 11th, 2001 (now called Maryland Emergency preparedness). I am currently serving on the board of NAPPSA, a professional organization supporting pharmacist. Particularly in this church, I have had the opportunity to serve in various capacities. In 2014, I was a volunteer member of the LOC for the Tour of Light tour in Howard County by the Children of Uganda Organization. I served as a vestry member from 2012 to 2015 during the time of Father Ginnever as the Rector. I am currently an Usher and have been in this role for 12 years. I also served as a member of the discerning committee for Parish Administrator at different times.

Above all, it gives me great joy and spiritual fulfillment to be of service to the Lord. Psalm 84 verse 10 says "better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God". In this church, I have served in Usher capacity and volunteer wherever else I am needed. As an Usher, my spiritual eyes have been opened and my heart drawn even more closely to God. Ushering has made me to appreciate the Sacrifice that Christ made to ensure our comfort. The opportunity to render a helping hand to all people and to be of service of God is an honor. I am excited at each opportunity I get to serve God. If I am given the opportunity to serve in the Vestry, I will approach the job with vigor, passion, diligence, sensitivity, and team player attitude without wavering. In conclusion, I'm honored and humbled for the nomination, and I will continue to serve our God with zeal all the days of my life.

Thanks for reading and God bless you!



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*
Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*
Catherine Hinton, *Staff Soprano*
Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*) • Jan DeBoissiere (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
Tim Beaty • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • W. Ben Jackson III • Greta Pike-Barnes •
Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman