

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, June 16, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.



Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

We are delighted you're here – welcome home!

The music today was selected by Jan DeBoissiere,
winner of the Hymn Selection Auction Item.

Introduction

The musical score is written for piano and three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The introduction consists of two staves of piano music. The first vocal entry is on the third staff, with lyrics for three parts. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes. The second vocal entry is on the fifth staff, with lyrics for three parts. The piano accompaniment continues. The third vocal entry is on the seventh staff, with lyrics for three parts. The piano accompaniment continues. The score ends with a final piano chord on the eighth staff.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing till earth and hea - ven ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, thou who hast

har - mon - ies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise
 days when hope un - born had died; yet, with a stead - y beat,
 brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might

high as the lis - tening skies; let it re - sound loud as the
 have not our wea - ry feet come to the place for which our
 led us in - to the light; keep us for ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
 par - ents sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we

taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
 wa - tered; we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
 met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

brought us; fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new
 slaugh - tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we
 get thee; sha-dowed be - neath thy hand may we for

day be - gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 ev - er stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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 |

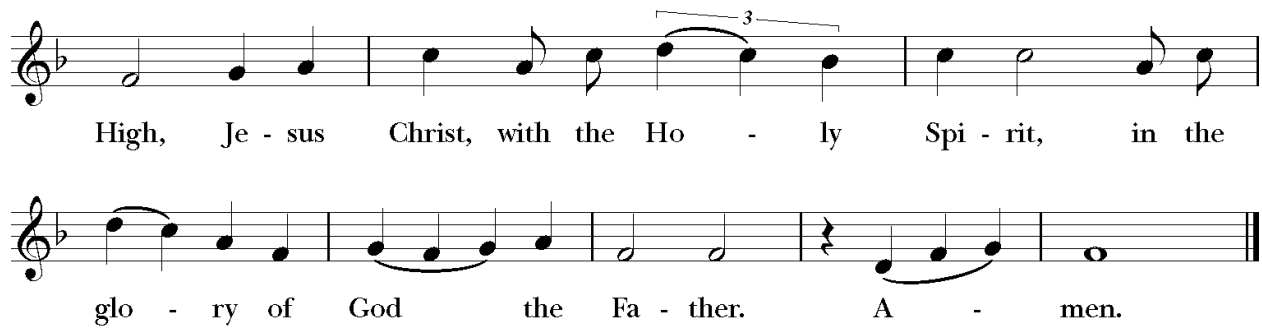
Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Gloria S 280 | Glory to God

Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty 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



The Collect |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Ezekiel 17:22-24 |

Reader: A reading from Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
 from the lofty top of a cedar;
 I will set it out.
 I will break off a tender one
 from the topmost of its young twigs;
 I myself will plant it
 on a high and lofty mountain.
 On the mountain height of Israel
 I will plant it,
 in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
 and become a noble cedar.
 Under it every kind of bird will live;
 in the shade of its branches will nest
 winged creatures of every kind.
 All the trees of the field shall know
 that I am the LORD.
 I bring low the high tree,
 I make high the low tree;
 I dry up the green tree
 and make the dry tree flourish.
 I the LORD have spoken;
 I will accomplish it.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by half verse.

Psalm 92:1-4,11-14 | *Bonum est confiteri*

It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, *
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning *
and of your faithfulness in the night season;

On the psaltery, and on the lyre, *
and to the melody of the harp.

For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; *
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD *
shall flourish in the courts of our God;

They shall still bear fruit in old age; *
they shall be green and succulent;

That they may show how upright the LORD is, *
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

A Reading from 2 Corinthians 5:6-10,[11-13],14-17 |

Reader: A reading from the Second Epistle to the Corinthians.

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

System 1: C
1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -
2 Though none go with me, still I will fol - low; though none go
3 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

System 2: F C
cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
with me, still I will fol - low; though none go with me, still I will
hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -

System 3: G7 C
Je - sus;
fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
fore me;

The Gospel | Mark 4:26-34

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

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

13 mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

Sermon | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector

The Nicene Creed |

All:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

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

The Prayers of the People |

In today's lessons, Lord, we are reminded that in the inevitable times of our lives, when we must walk by faith and not by sight. You are with us, that You calm our minds, that You answer our cries, that You are with us. With grateful hearts, we pray together, **thank you, Father.**

On this Father's Day, we remember all those men in our lives who have loved us, taught us, cherished, and sheltered us. With grateful hearts, we pray together, **thank you, Father.**

Again and again we are reminded that you, our great Father in heaven, listen to us, that Your Son, Jesus, listens to us. Help us in our own lives to listen to those who cry out to us for help, so that by our actions we may be Your hands at work in our world. We give thanks for the work of Your church here in our own parish, in the churches of St. Christopher's & St John's, Linthicum; St. John's, Ellicott City, and St. Mark's, Highland in our Diocese of Maryland, and in the churches of Iglesia Anglicana de Chile. We pray for our spiritual leaders, our Presiding Bishop, Michael, our Diocesan Bishop, Carrie, our Rector, Emmanuel, our Deacon, Denise, our Postulants: Kiona, Mike and Rebecca and our Rector Emeritus, Richard. We welcome all who are visiting with us today and who are making Christ Church their new church home. For all the work done in Your Name, with grateful hearts, we pray together, **thank you, Father.**

For those precious times in our lives when we feel the presence of the Lord and are overcome with happiness, we thank you. In this coming week, we remember the birthdays of Obenewa, Elizabeth, Marquis, Charlie, Nathaniel & Yetti; the wedding anniversaries of John & Tanis Hadley and Don & Carolann Sawyer, the baptismal anniversaries of Emily, Brett & Jason, and those we also name. With grateful hearts, we pray together, **thank you, Father.**

Help us in these hard times, Father, to put our hand in Yours and to so gain the strength and courage needed for what we face. Today, we especially pray for Kristin, Ivy, Sabrina, Graham, Brian, Jim, Erica, Marilyn, Carolyn, Mary Ann, Barbara, Cindy, Tim, Sherry, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred, and Nell, and for the souls of Ann Marie Leeman and Mike Bruggink, and for those we also name. For bringing us calmly to the harbor for which we are bound, with grateful hearts, we pray together, **thank you, Father.**

Paul's words to the Christians in Corinth remind us that even today, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!". How amazing. How wonderful. How humbling. For all that we have and for all that we are, with grateful hearts, we pray together, **thank you, Father. 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.

Passing the Peace Song | I Love You with the Love of the Lord

Jim Gilbert

**I love you with the love of the Lord,
Yes, I love you with the love of the Lord.
I can see in you the glory of my King
And I love you with the love of the Lord.**

Welcome and Announcements |

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Offertory Song | Nothing More

Alternate Routes

Please scan to give.



Doxology Hymn 380 (v. 1) |

Old 100th

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

Eucharistic Prayer B |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Celebrant:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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



The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: Ho-ly, ho - ly, - ho-ly, ho - ly - ho-ly - Lord God - of hosts - Heav-en and earth - are - filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in - the - high - est - ! Bless-ed is the One who - comes in the name - of the Lord, - of the Lord - Ho - san - na - in the high - est, Ho - san-na in - the - high - est.

Celebrant:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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

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

All: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

People: **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.**

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.

Communion Song | Beautiful Things

Gungor

All this pain
 I wonder if I'll ever find my way
 I wonder if my life could really change, at all
 All this earth
 Could all that is lost ever be found?
 Could a garden come out from this ground, at all?

You make beautiful things
 You make beautiful things out of the dust
 You make beautiful things
 You make beautiful things out of us

All around,
 Hope is springing up from this old ground
 Out of chaos life is being found, in you

You make beautiful things
 You make beautiful things out of the dust
 You make beautiful things
 You make beautiful things out of us
 Oh, you make beautiful things
 You make beautiful things out of the dust
 You make beautiful things
 You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new,
 You are making me new

You make me new,
You are making me new
(Making me new)

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us
Oh, you make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new,
You are making me new
You make me new,
You are making me new

Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

Eucharistic Visitors' Prayer | 8:00 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.***

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws

1. stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 2. near, When my life is al - most gone;
 3. near, And the day is past and gone;

1. — Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 2. — Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand, lest I
 3. — At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my

1. light, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
 2. fall, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
 3. hand, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.

Dismissal |

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

Postlude |

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Joan Harvey

Ushers: Jo Emily Knox

Chalicerist: Joan Harvey

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Steve Alpern

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah,
Eva Oladipupo, Hope Oladipupo

Acolytes and Crucifer: Alex Opiri, Nevaeh Wilmot

Chalicerists: Steve Alpern, Al Bracey

Altar Guild

Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente

PARISH CALENDAR JUNE 16 TO JUNE 22

Sunday, June 16 – Father’s Day

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick, upper level
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – New Brick
8:45 – 9:30 am	Blood Pressure Screening & Medication Check – New Brick, coffee room
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	Camping Trip Information Session – New Brick, lower level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:30 – 4:30 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference room
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, June 17

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level

Tuesday, June 18

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
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Wednesday, June 19 – Juneteenth – Church Office Closed

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, June 20

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
5:45 – 6:45 pm	Health Ministry Meeting – Zoom
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Friday, June 21

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, June 22

9:00 – 10:00 am	Cycling & Fellowship
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to 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.

Blood Pressure Checks and One-on-One Consults - This Sunday

At 9 a.m. this Sunday, the Christ Church Health Ministry will provide blood pressure checks as well as one-on-one pharmacist consults to any parishioner who needs them. Please come to the Elevator Room in New Brick (main level).

Father Manny's Birthday

In honor of Fr. Manny's birthday (which was on June 11th), please consider donating to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. **Visit our main Online Giving Form** and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help. There is also a birthday card for him on the round Narthex table, so please feel free to sign it, if you wish.

Assateague State Park Weekend Meeting Takes Place After Church Today

Christ Church's Youth Group is sponsoring a free beach camping trip for youths, their families and friends, and other parishioners who want to get away for a few summer days. There will be many activities, including swimming, hiking, crabbing, fishing, kayaking, beach games, campfires, and much more. Bring your tent, and camp right by the ocean! We'll have an information meeting on campus after the 10:30 service this Sunday, June 16th to answer any questions you might have. **When you are ready to register, please go here and complete the form by the end of day on Tuesday, June 18th.** The form has a lot of details about the trip, but if you have any questions before our Sunday meeting, please email info@christchurchcolumbia.org.

DreamBuilders Goods Available Today after Church

Look for goods on sale to benefit **DreamBuilders** after both services this Sunday, June 16th. It's first-come-first-serve for the remaining chocolates after high demand during a recent restaurant fundraiser. But we'll have plenty of

fair-trade coffee and tea at our table in the Narthex. Buy a treat for Dad and help a good cause! A multi-generational team will build three homes in flood-damaged Hazard, Ky. Christ Church will be represented by Director of Youth & Family Ministries Kiona Lookingbill and Jasmine and Alex Opiri during the Kentucky trip from June 16 to June 22.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a weekly evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God and a more powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **875 9496 3596** and the Passcode is **Centering!**

CEC Book Club - Thursdays

Christ Church's Book Club now gathers weekly on a new day - Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. - and since we are starting a new book - *Somehow* by Anne Lamott - now's the perfect time to join us! You can learn more about the book **here** and **here**, and get a copy in your preferred format from any bookseller. CECBC is always welcoming new people to the group, so if reading and sharing our thoughts on books sounds like something you'd enjoy taking part in, log into Zoom - **the Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Password is **CECBooks**. Email Ellen Hoke at **bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org** if you'd like more information.

Theology on Tap - June 26

ToT is an informal get-together where you can chat about interesting religious articles of the day, grab a beverage, and enjoy fun, engaging, structure-free conversation with other parishioners and friends. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26th at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia. If you have any questions, please speak with Mike Looney or email **seminarian@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

An Independence Day FWF Celebration - July 3

Gather with us to celebrate Independence Day one day early, as we have a BBQ and open mic night on Wednesday, July 3rd at 6 p.m. Enjoy scrumptious BBQ from Famous Dave's while participating or enjoying the open mic event. The mic will be open for storytelling, singing, poetry, jokes, thanksgiving - it's open, so you decide! There will also be outdoor games and fellowship for all! Bring a side dish, snacks, or dessert to share, as well as soft drinks, beer, or wine. Let's welcome the start of this summer together!

EfM Invites You to Participate Next Year

Education for Ministry is a unique four-year, small-group program based on study and practice in theological reflection, helping participants discover and nurture their call to Christian service where they live, work, and play. Now, as the first year of our EfM seminar is drawing to a close, we are looking for a few additional people to join us as we enter the next year of study and reflection. Because of the program's cyclical nature, individuals may begin their studies during any calendar year of the four-year cycle. Participation by members at a variety of levels of study will be so enriching for us all. Please consider joining us! If you have questions, you can speak with Mother Marcia Davenport at church, or email **EfM@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Health Ministry in Action

Last weekend was a busy one for the Christ Church Health Ministry, as we took part in two events on Saturday, June 8th. Early that morning, we gathered for the Maryland NAMIWalk in Cockeysville. Not only did we participate in the activity, but we also raised more than three times our goal - incredible! Later that morning, the CEC Cycling Group gathered for their Saturday ride, and we had 17 people join us! It's wonderful to see so many people take advantage of the nice weather, and getting outside in the name of health and wellness - but there's plenty of room for you, too! Be sure to regularly visit **the Health Ministry page on the CEC website** for our latest articles and

announcements, [visit our latest blog post for some photos](#), and email health@christchurchcolumbia.org if you'd like more information or wish to join us.

Healing Stations

Christ Church now has healing stations during the 10:30 Eucharist at the back of the sanctuary. If you need prayer, we invite you to visit the healing station after receiving Communion. We also welcome those of you who wish to help, so if you are interested in joining a group of parishioners who offer healing prayer, email Rebecca Warlow at healingministry@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Save the Date: Next Sunday, June 23rd, Enjoy a Light Lunch While Zoom Takes Us to Uganda with Friends of Sabina

What's life like in rural Uganda? Find the answer and hear why opportunities are greater for 434 students at Sabina Boarding Primary School, which Christ Church supports through the nonprofit, [Friends of Sabina](#) (FOS). At noon on Sunday, June 23, parishioners are invited to join our annual Zoom meetup with FOS leaders Maria White and Ann Marie Davis for an update and question-and-answer session. Because Ann Marie will be on-site in Saanje, Uganda, it's likely Sabina students will take part. Maria will join remotely from the United States.

Don't miss the informative show-and-tell – or the light lunch – that you can enjoy downstairs in the Great Hall of New Brick after the conclusion of the 10:30 Worship Service. Outreach members will offer coffee, tea, beverages, and pastries during an approximately 20-minute actual coffee hour for parishioners and any others whom you wish to invite to the presentation. At noon, we'll gather at the projector and laptop and Zoom to Uganda. Or people can log on from a device remotely. The Zoom session will run from noon until 1:30 p.m., which allows time for a Q&A with parishioners who began sponsoring individual students in 2020. A photo collage of seven of the youngsters, pictured at that point in time, appears on the [FOS page](#) of the Christ Church website. Several of those students interacted with sponsors, and other students gained new sponsors during the 2023 meetup (find a video recording online in [“An Incredibly Heartwarming Zoom Recap with Friends of Sabina”](#)).

The youngsters come from families who otherwise cannot afford their schooling, and sponsors commit to fund an annual scholarship and to keep in touch. One aim is to form relationships, like family across the miles. FOS helps accomplish that goal by encouraging an exchange of letters and occasional video calls.

Christ Church became a supporter of Sabina Primary School more than a decade ago when parishioners helped establish a library. Since then, several have traveled there, including the Hokes, Alperns, and Aribiahs – whose personal ties go back to Teddy Aribiah's childhood. The library has become a resource not just for Sabina students but for nearby residents, and Christ Church continues to support it. The Outreach Commission at our June meeting approved spending \$3,100 to pay the librarian's salary, periodical subscriptions, and a portion of internet service. Funds come from the Vestry-approved, 2024 Outreach budget derived from your pledges and contributions. Thanks to all! And see the progress on Zoom during our meetup.

Do You Have an Infant Car Seat You Can Donate?

Our Refugee Ministry recently received a fourth family to the area. They have come from Afghanistan, and have a 17-month-old child. If anyone has an infant car seat you can donate so they can safely transport them, please speak with Paula Rees at church or email info@christchurchcolumbia.org and we will connect her with you. Thank you!

The 2024 Lake Elkhorn Middle School Supply Drive has Begun

Our parish has had a partnership with Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS) for over eight years. Just over a mile away, LEMS is truly our neighboring school, and at Christ Church, we believe that we should love our neighbors

and continue to have this partnership because many LEMS families are financially stressed. Over 50% of LEMS students qualify for free and reduced meals, the highest percentage amongst the middle schools in Howard County.

This year, Tracy Williams, the counselor at LEMS, has asked for the support of Christ Church parishioners to provide school supplies for 125 children for the upcoming school year. In addition, she would be thrilled if we could supply backpacks for 50 students. It costs over \$60 to buy the school-required supplies for one child and the backpacks will add to that amount. Therefore, we need over \$7,500 to reach this goal.

You can learn more about this initiative and our needs on our website and can donate either **online** or via check. Those links are also on our website, and every donation helps a great deal.

CCC Resumes Home Deliveries, Seeks Volunteer Translators and Shoppers

After a month-long hiatus to clear a backlog in requests for home deliveries, **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) resumed taking new orders from individuals and families who lack transportation to CCC's sites. On June 4, a CCC leader posted this plea: "Please consider signing up as a volunteer dispatch translator or shopper to help us keep up with requests. Thank you in advance!! " Spanish translators are most in demand. Go online to **sign up here**. Please check for updates on the **CCC Facebook Group**.

CCC also needs volunteer "shoppers" who fulfill the grocery lists at its pantry, located at 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia, and then deliver goods to the recipients' homes. To volunteer, go online to **sign up here**. If you, or someone whom you know, is in need and lacks transportation, go **online here** to request a home delivery.

Please continue to support CCC by donating baby-care items and diapers. Sizes 4-6 are in the greatest demand. Collect these along with sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put them 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 bin and delivers its contents.

Look for the FISH Bin on the Breezeway near the Parish Hall

FISH of Howard County requests non-perishable foods and toiletries, which we collect in the basket at the altar or in a marked yellow bin on the breezeway between the Parish Hall and Old Brick. **FISH** provides committed support to select families in need. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

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

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 – ***and every amount makes a difference.***

You can give securely and conveniently by using Realm – **that link is here**. You can also give securely by using your mobile phone. Simply send a text with the word **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift. If you need assistance, email us at **info@christchurchcolumbia.org**

M3daas3 *part three*

by Father Manny

I started applying for jobs in the fall of 2004 because I knew that my time at Yale Divinity School would end upon graduation in May, 2005. By then, I had left Atlanta, settled in New Haven, and was enjoying my time at school. But the reality of securing a position before I graduated wasn't lost on me.

I checked my email one day and found an email from the Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Columbia, SC. That was very exciting. He interviewed me on the phone, and the next timer I heard from him was when he asked if I would be willing to meet him in New York City. "Sure, why not," I responded, so we scheduled a date and time and I drove to meet with him. After a great interview with the Dean, a great person, I received a job offer and accepted the position without thinking twice about it. He invited me and my family to visit Columbia. Monique, who was still in Atlanta with our two daughters, drove to Columbia while I flew from up north. We arrived in Columbia at just about the same time. The hospitality given to myself and my family was amazing, the people were great, the service was beautiful, and the food was awesome. We departed Columbia with the satisfaction that I had made the right decision.

It wasn't until we finally settled down in South Carolina, however, that it became apparent that this may not be the right fit. I didn't have any issues with anything, especially on the issue of race, because I was simply oblivious to it. One of the real challenges for many Africans who immigrate to the United States is that because we didn't have to deal with the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow and all the ills that are associated with the dehumanization of African Americans, we simply do not have the language with which to articulate this experience. Not only that, but an African immigrant is inherently oblivious to racism - unless it is blatant.

Based on my experience at All Saints, I erroneously assumed that every Episcopal Church is the same and that every single part of America is the same. People are the same everywhere. Everything is the same. The food is the same. The roads are the same. Boy was I wrong!

Sundays were huge challenges in my house because Monique wouldn't come to church, nor would she bring the children to church. Her reason was that the church wasn't diverse enough. She obviously saw something that I didn't see at the time - for me, all was well and dandy. I could go to church, be the only African American in a sanctuary of 300-400 people, and be perfectly fine with it. But something about the place made her nauseous.

I didn't see the absence of African Americans as an issue but for her, it was a big issue. It told her more about the character of the people and the place than anything else she could read about the place. Whenever she raised the issue, I would immediately revert to my African mindset and demand answers as to why it was a big deal for her.

With time, I also grew disillusioned about the community and my place within it. What triggered this disillusionment was a conversation I had with a parishioner I happened to share a row with on a flight to Dallas, TX. I don't remember his name, but in our chat from Columbia, SC to Dallas Texas, he told me about himself and his time and experience in Columbia.

On that flight, he told me an interesting story - he said, "Manny, I have worshipped at this cathedral since the early 70's, and have run for Vestry several times, but not once have I been elected. Although I consider myself more capable than some of the people who get elected to the Vestry, I have never been elected."

I asked him, "What do you think might be the reason?"

This was his response: "I don't know, but my guess is that it is because I am not from the area."

"What difference does it make?" I asked in bewilderment.

"It makes a lot of difference. If I am White and I don't feel accepted within a White community, do you think the same community would be accepting of an African American?"

That was an eye-opener for me. To this Episcopalian from Dallas, Texas - *M3daas3*.

As I reflected on the conversation with this parishioner, my weekly debate with Monique, and some weird happenings, it became apparent that I didn't fit into the culture nor was I welcomed as I thought I was. I felt that if even the color of my skin was a turn-off to some, my character and ministry would speak for me. Remember Martin Luther King's words - judged by the content of the character and not the color of the skin.

This feeling was such that it took every joy I had in ministry away from me. My understanding of ministry was to serve, and serving at that church had turned into what I didn't know could happen in a church.

To remedy my disillusionment with ministry, I turned to law. I studied for the LSAT and applied to law schools. I was accepted into the University Of South Carolina School Of Law. It was a big deal for me because I thought I had figured my way out of the mess in which I found myself.

The cathedral and I separated, and I enrolled in law school. I truly enjoyed law school and the intellectual curiosity that came with it. But soon all of it fizzled out as I wondered about what I was doing in law school. I am a priest and will always be a priest. This isn't where I belong.

I belong in the house of the Lord.

All through my challenges, there were more than a few people who I credit for keeping me grounded. They looked out for me and showed more than a keen interest in my ministry and life. I still keep in touch with them because they are more than good people. In fact, there were more than enough faithful Christians in that congregation for whom the evil of racism bore no resemblance to who they were. They always treated me with respect and kindness. To all of them, I say *M3daas3*.

I have had more than enough time to reflect on this part of my ministry and life story. It simultaneously marked both the highest point and the lowest. The whole experience reminds me of the assurance from the Shepherd's psalm: ***“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, thou art with me. Thy rod and staff they comfort me.”***

The reality is that the valley of the shadow of death is engineered by real people, just as much as the comfort of the rod and the staff is made possible by real people. I give thanks to those who demonstrate how low we can go. But I give greater thanks to those who also demonstrate what it means to lift people up to look beyond themselves. I give thanks to those whose actions remind us about human dignity.

Some of the things that were going on didn't make any sense to me. But I accepted them for what they were. In fact, I didn't ascribe any racial element to them. It wasn't until years later that someone who knew what was going on revealed to me what was going on behind the scenes. That was when things began to make sense to me. If I ever learned anything from my experience in South Carolina, it was where I learned about the impact of racism in the church and how destructive it can be. Without that experience, I would have pursued my ministry with the erroneous belief that all is well and dandy, but it is not. I can only imagine the number of people who may still be suffering from the impact of racism within the church.

My faith in God suffered greatly but it bounced back up because I found a great sense of the divine hand at work in all that was happening. I learned that we either learn by wisdom or experience. I didn't learn by wisdom, and as devastating as the experience was, it provided an opportunity to look at faith in a different but enriching way. There's no bad experience if you learn something from it. And for that, I say *M3daas3*.

Departing from South Carolina brought a huge sense of relief. It felt like turning over a new page. It was a new beginning for me. And for all the possibilities of new beginnings, I say, *M3daas3*.

Manny+

(M3daas3 means "Thank You" in my native dialect. This thank-you tour of sorts is meant to highlight pivotal moments and people in my life and to give thanks for all those who, by the grace of God, made it happen for me. This is part 3 of a multi-part series ([part one is here](#) and [part two is here](#)). It turns out that I have more to write than I originally thought!)



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Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*)

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

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