



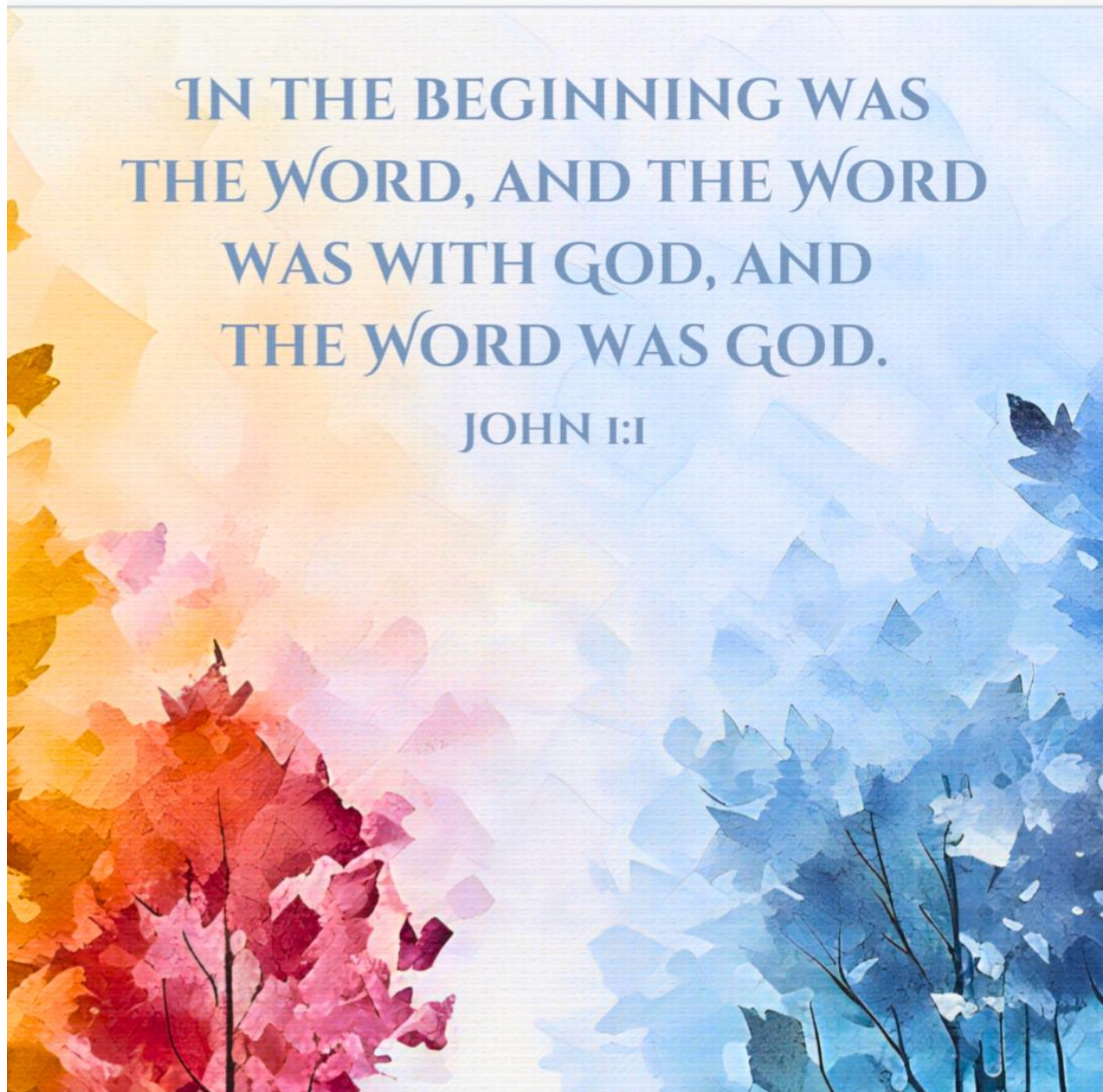
# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, December 28, 2025 | First Sunday after Christmas



### 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](http://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.

## OPENING HYMN 107 | Good Christian Friends Rejoice

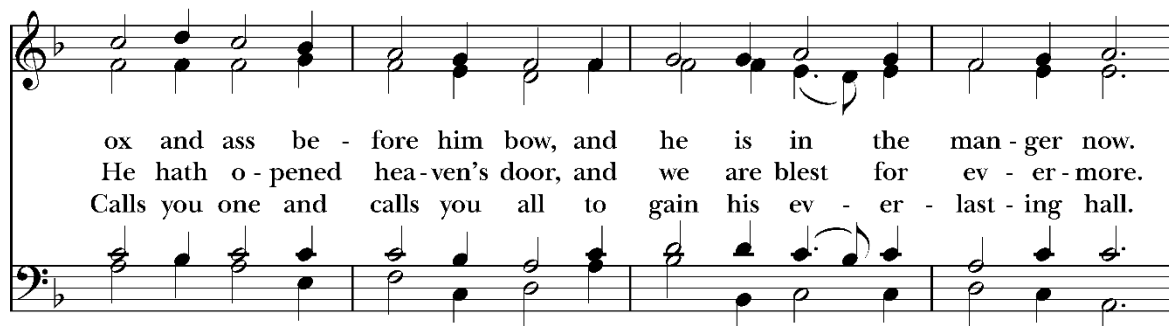
In Dulci Jubilo



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## 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 | Glory Be To God on High

*arr. Mark Schweizer*

**Joyously** *The St. James Christmas Service*

Glo - ry be to God on high,  
Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare  
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,  
To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds  
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,  
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er  
draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.  
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.  
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.  
Glo - ri - a  
1. in ex - cel - sis De - o! 2. in ex - cel - sis De o!

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

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

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

## THE PSALM

Psalm 147:13-21 | *Laudate Dominum*

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
**praise your God, O Zion;**

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
**he has blessed your children within you.**

He has established peace on your borders; \*  
**he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
**and his word runs very swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool; \*  
**he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
**who can stand against his cold?**

He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
**he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
**his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
**to them he has not revealed his judgments.**  
**Hallelujah!**

## THE EPISTLE | Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Reader: *A reading from Galatian.*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as able.*

*Unison or harmony*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



## THE GOSPEL | John 1:1-18

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

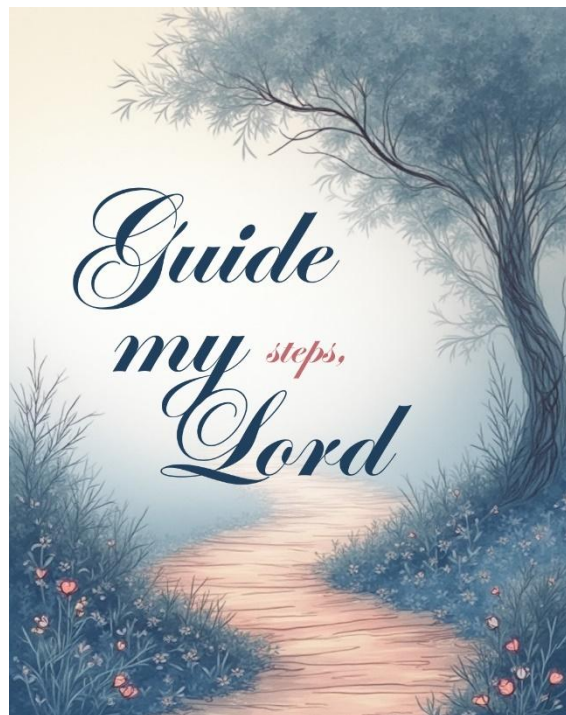
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

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

*The people stand as able.*

## THE NICENE CREED |

***Al:***

**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 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 |

"Love is born!" Our Christmas gifts to one and other and all the lights on all of the trees of the season pale in the, once again, new and holy presence of "The Light of the World." May we each, on this First Sunday of Christmas, be still. Christ, the Savior of the World, is born!

**Hallelujah! Praise and thanks to our God in heaven.**

Father God; Lord and Savior, Jesus; Holy Spirit of the Living God, on this 1st Sunday of Christmas we give thanks and we are surrounded and comforted by your perfect love. Through and beyond the turmoil, the uncertainty, the fear and the sadness of these present days in our world, you gather us in your arms of perfect love and we are safe in your promise. **Hallelujah! Christ the Savior of the world is born.**

We pray for our nation and for all nations. We pray for all who govern in this country and throughout the world that they may do so justly, caring for the well-being of all people. We pray for peace. Grant the wisdom and strength to all in authority to work together toward eliminating hatred and famine and injustice on this earth. **Hallelujah! Christ the Savior of the world is born.**

We pray on this last Sunday of the year and we give thanks for our Church; for our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. We are thankful for the gift of our beautiful music ministry; for our Director of Music, Larissa, and for all the voices of our choir and we give thanks for our dedicated Communications Director, Chris, who has so faithfully kept us all connected online and on Zoom. We give thanks for our Vestry and for our Christ Church family who are ever faithful, and ever present with us, both remotely and in person. In our Diocese we lift in prayer the parishes of: Ascension, Westminster; St. George's, Hampstead, and Holy Comforter, Lutherville. We also pray this morning for Christians in other denominations and for the ecumenical movement in Churches of the Anglican communion. **Hallelujah! Lord God, we are so deeply blessed!**

We pray for this Earth that God has given us, that we may use it wisely and conserve its riches with caring and with love. **Lord, Hear our Prayer**

We pray for and we lift up all who suffer in mind, in body or in spirit, especially Clarence, Steve, Diane, Priscilla, Natasha, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Priscilla, Kayode, Isaac, Abel, Rachan & Sherry, and those you now name. Lift up each of your children who face severe challenges during this time of pandemic. Father, may your love comfort them. Watch over them closely. **Lord we pray.**

We remember those who have died. Father God; especially those you now name and we pray that they are enfolded now in peace and joy in your arms as they begin their new and eternal journey. We pray for the healing of all who grieve their loss. **Lord, be their peace.**

We give thanks every occasion for celebration this week as we continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior; especially for the birthdays of Theo, Charlotte, Phoebe, Miles, George, Margaret, Elle, Chris, Jonathan, Leanne, Gardiner, Nii & Priscilla, and wedding anniversary of Pamela & Shannon Pruitt, and baptismal anniversary of Audra .  
**Lord, hear our joyful prayer of thanksgiving.**

**Hallelujah! Christ, the Savior of the World has come! Love is Born! 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 ANTHEM | Lullay, Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child

*Coventry Carol*  
*Sara Kirkpatrick, soloist*

*Please scan to give.*



## DOXOLOGY |

*Divinum mysterium*



Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanks giv - ing, and un - wea - ried  
prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry and do - min - ion,  
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!



# THE HOLY COMMUNION



## EUCCHARISTIC 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...

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*  
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."

*Therefore, according to his command, O Father,*

*Celebrant and People:* **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.**

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 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. **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 HYMN 324 (v. 2) | King of Kings

*Picardy*



King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on earth he stood,  
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood  
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heaven - ly food.

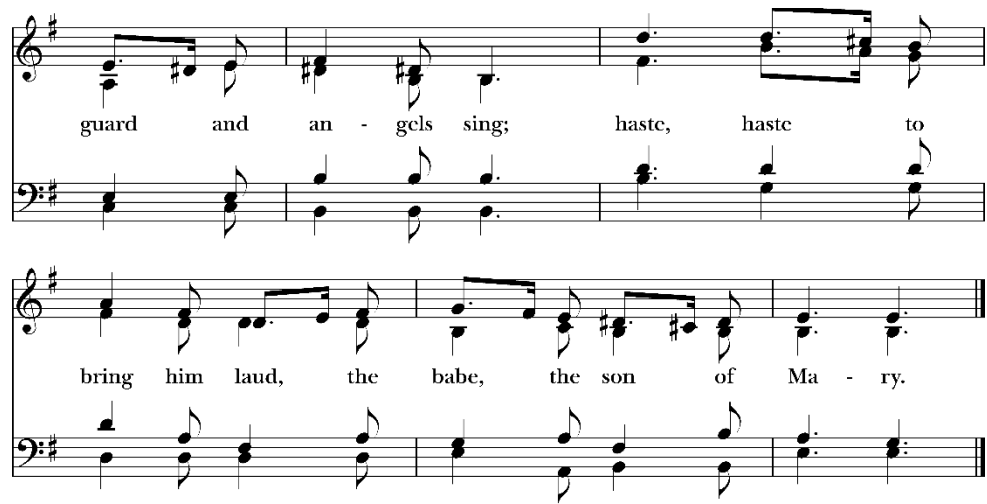
## COMMUNION HYMN 115 | What Child Is This

*Greensleeves*



*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,  
 Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -  
 an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.  
*Refrain*  
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to  
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

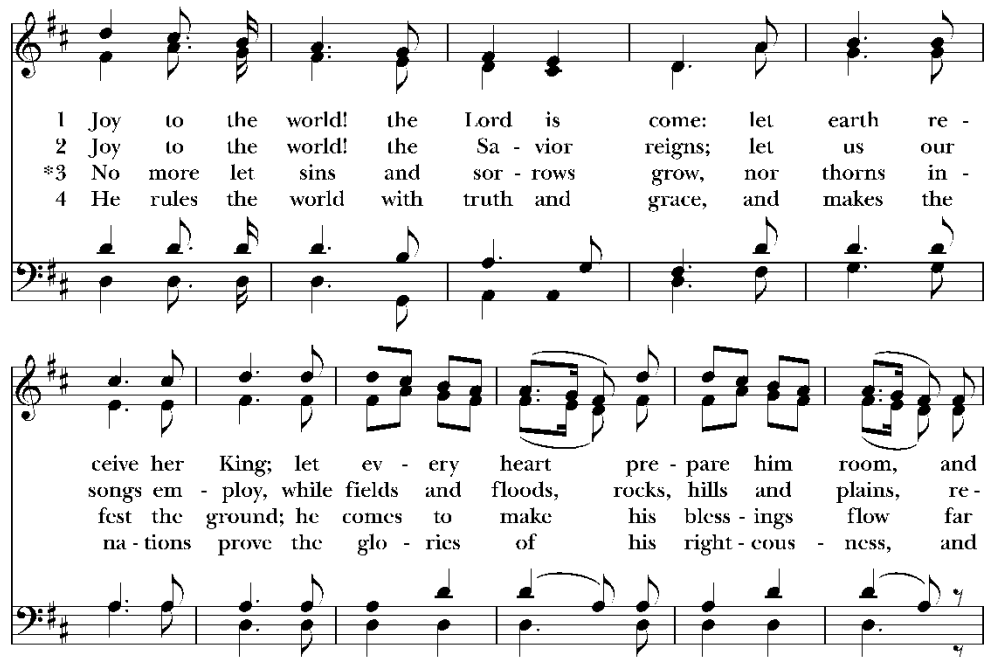
*All:* Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with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

## THE BLESSING |

*The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen*

## CLOSING HYMN 100 | Joy to the world

*Antioch*



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the  
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - cous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
3 far as the curse is found, far  
4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
peat the sound - ing joy,  
as the curse is found,  
won - ders of his love,

## THE DISMISSAL |

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

## POSTLUDE | Joy to the World

*arr. Hal Hopson*

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## Assisting in Worship Today

### 8:00 a.m. Service

**Lector/Reader:** Kayode Fatodu

**Ushers:** Kayode Fatodu

### 10:30 a.m. Service

**Acolytes :** Daniel Jackson, James Mercer, Wynstan Eguakun

**Chalicians:** Steve Alpern

**Lector/Reader:** Steve Alpern

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

**Tellers:** Brian Farnandis, Amanda Kirkpatrick, Jenny Cecil

**Altar Guild:** Pamela Foreman, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms, Leigh Smith



# PARISH CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 28, 2025 – JANUARY 3, 2026

### Sunday, December 28

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am– 9:30 am	Coffee Hour
9:00 am– 9:30 am	Family Worship – New Brick, UL
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom & Parish Hall, CR
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

### Monday, December 29

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

### Tuesday, December 30

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, December 31

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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### Thursday, January 1

All Day	New Year's Day
All Day	Office Closed
10:00 am	New Year's Day Service – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom

### Friday, January 2

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

### Saturday, January 3

2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to share with the church,  
Please send to [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org) by Tuesday evening



***SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS***

## **Christmas Flower Delivery - This Sunday, December 28**

We need a few volunteers to help deliver the beautiful poinsettias to parishioners who cannot gather with us in person this Christmas. If you can help, please email [info@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org) and let us know. Deliveries will take place after the 10:30 worship next Sunday, December 28th. Thank you very much.

## **New Year's Worship – January 1**

Celebrating the first morning of the New Year is always special, so join us at 10 a.m. in New Brick on Thursday, January 1, 2026, for Holy Eucharist and a ringing in of the new year.

## **WOCC's January Meeting – January 5**

The Women of Christ Church will have their first meeting of 2026 on Monday, January 5th on Zoom. Join them at 7:30 as they discuss plans for their 2026 events and create a calendar for the year. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is **898 1689 9010** and the Passcode is **WOCC**

## **First Wednesday Fellowship – January 7**

The very first FWF of 2026 contains food to warm the insides and a game to warm the heart! Please bring soup, salad, or a dessert to share, and bring a game that's fun for groups to play! It might be cold outside, but we'll have a heartwarming time in the Great Hall.

## **Read to Our Sunday School Children**

Do you love sharing stories and reading? Did you know that we have volunteers who read a Bible story to our youngest children in the nursery? We can always use more, and we welcome anyone - young, or young at heart - to participate in this ministry. We have books and children's Bibles, or you can bring your favorite story to share. There is no preparation needed, and it only takes 10 minutes of your Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Jenn Atkins at [dandjatkings@verizon.net](mailto:dandjatkings@verizon.net).

## **Center for Spiritual Nourishment Returns in January - January 10**

As we begin the new year, consider taking a break from the chaos and treating yourself to a peaceful morning in a soul-nurturing community. The 2nd Saturday Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN) provides opportunities for us to be in closer relationship with God by offering an array of experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit.

Programs for January center around the theme “Sacred Vision” and include Conversations on Spiritual Practices, Spiritual Direction, Meditation, and Sacred Art. You can learn more about the 2nd Saturday CSN at our website [www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-nourishment](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-nourishment).

## **Pledge to Christ Church for 2026**

We are incredibly blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each of you will prayerfully consider your contribution to Christ Church for the next year, as well.

Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the Narthex to fill out, or you can safely complete one on our website at [christchurchcolumbia.org/2026-pledge](http://christchurchcolumbia.org/2026-pledge). You can also call the church office, and they will send one to you in the mail.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for supporting our worship, outreach, youth, music, and every other vital part of our common life.

### **Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings**

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. 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 817 6254 3177, and the Passcode is CP. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing [centering@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:centering@christchurchcolumbia.org).

### **Join the Christ Church Choir - Thursdays**

If you ever thought about giving Choir a shot, how about now? We have rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings—Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30—and all adults are welcome to join us.

Whether you read music or not, have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If interested, please speak with Larissa at church, email her at [music@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org), or stop by New Brick on any Thursday evening.

### **Find a Ministry that's Right for You!**

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others.

None of these requires weekly assistance - they 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 the Altar Guild, please email [altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org), or [inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org) for Inreach (or visit their website page), and if you're interested in assisting as a Teller, LEV, or Acolyte, please call the Church Office at [office@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org).





# The MOCC's Random Act of Kindness

to support



A **Comfort Case** is a small duffel bag or backpack with a purpose to provide comfort for youth as they enter the local foster care system.

## NEW Items to Donate:

- backpacks
- blankets
- stuffed animals to fit in a duffel or backpack
- pajamas for teens
- gift cards to Five Below

**Donate by Jan. 10**

Donation bin in the Narthex

**QUESTIONS?**

[MOCC@ChristChurchColumbia.org](mailto:MOCC@ChristChurchColumbia.org)



**PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER YOUR 2026 PLEDGE TO CHRIST CHURCH.**



**[WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/2026-PLEDGE](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/2026-PLEDGE)**



**Christ Episcopal Church**

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(410) 381-9365

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

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

The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*  
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

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