



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:30 A.M.

Sunday, August 31, 2025 | Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Baptism

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated, as if you yourselves were suffering.



H E B R E W S 1 3 : 1 - 3

## 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.

# THE WORD OF GOD

## PRELUDE |

### OPENING HYMN 368 | Holy Father, Great Creator

*Regent Square*

1. Holy Father, great Creator,  
source of mercy, love, and peace,  
look upon the Mediator,  
clothe us with his righteousness;  
heavenly Father, heavenly Father,  
through the Saviour hear and bless.
2. Holy Jesus, Lord of glory,  
whom angelic hosts proclaim,  
while we hear thy wondrous story,  
meet and worship in thy name,  
dear Redeemer, dear Redeemer,  
in our hearts thy peace proclaim.
3. Holy Spirit, Sanctifier,  
come with unction from above,  
touch our hearts with sacred fire,  
fill them with the Saviour's love.  
Source of comfort, source of comfort,  
cheer us with the Saviour's love.
4. God the Lord, through every nation  
let thy wondrous mercies shine.  
In the song of thy salvation  
every tongue and race combine.  
Great Jehovah, great Jehovah,  
form our hearts and make them  
thine.

### OPENING ACCLAMATION |

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

Glory  
to  
God in the  
Highest

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 2:4-13

*Reader:* *A reading from Jeremiah.*

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me  
that they went far from me,  
and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?  
They did not say, "Where is the Lord  
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,  
who led us in the wilderness,  
in a land of deserts and pits,  
in a land of drought and deep darkness,  
in a land that no one passes through,  
where no one lives?"  
I brought you into a plentiful land  
to eat its fruits and its good things.  
But when you entered you defiled my land,  
and made my heritage an abomination.  
The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?"  
Those who handle the law did not know me;  
the rulers transgressed against me;  
the prophets prophesied by Baal,  
and went after things that do not profit.  
Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord,  
and I accuse your children's children.  
Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look,  
send to Kedar and examine with care;  
see if there has ever been such a thing.  
Has a nation changed its gods,  
even though they are no gods?  
But my people have changed their glory  
for something that does not profit.

*(continued)*

Be appalled, O heavens, at this,  
be shocked, be utterly desolate,  
says the Lord,  
for my people have committed two evils:  
they have forsaken me,  
the fountain of living water,  
and dug out cisterns for themselves,  
cracked cisterns  
that can hold no water.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

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

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

## THE PSALM

Psalm 81:1, 10-16 | *Exultate Deo*

Sing with joy to God our strength \*  
**and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.**

I am the Lord your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, \*  
**"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."**

And yet my people did not hear my voice, \*  
**and Israel would not obey me.**

So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, \*  
**to follow their own devices.**

Oh, that my people would listen to me! \*  
**that Israel would walk in my ways!**

I should soon subdue their enemies \*  
**and turn my hand against their foes.**

Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, \*  
**and their punishment would last for ever.**

But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat \*  
**and satisfy him with honey from the rock.**



## THE EPISTLE | Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Reader: *A reading from Galatians.*

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.  
What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*The people stand as able.*

## SEQUENCE HYMN 636 | How Firm a Foundation

*Foundation*



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!  
3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,



1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
4 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
3 I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,



1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

*Optional Interlude*



## THE GOSPEL | Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

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

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

*Samuel Sebastian Wesley*

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

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

*(continued)*

Optional Ending

9

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 | Kathy Lyon

*The people stand as able.*

# HOLY BAPTISM

## THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE: Theodore Henry Widenhouse

*Celebrant:* The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.  
*Parents and Godparents:* **I present Theodore 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 this person in their life in Christ?

*People:* **We will.**

*Celebrant:* Let us join with Theodore and all 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 CANDIDATE**

*Celebrant:* Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

*Intervessor:* Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.  
*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intervessor:* Open his heart to your grace and truth.  
*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intervessor:* Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intervessor:* Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.  
*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intervessor:* Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.  
*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intervessor:* Send him into the world in witness to your love.  
*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intervessor:* Bring him 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

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

*Celebrant:* Theodore, 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 this servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him 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 candidate's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying:*

Theodore, 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 |

### OFFERTORY HYMN 685 | Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

*Toplady*



*Please scan to give.*

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,  
3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,  
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;  
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.  
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

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



## THE HOLY COMMUNION



### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A |

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

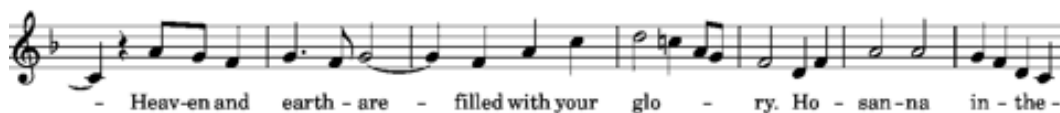
*People:* We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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

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



*Celebrant:* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.  
He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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

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

*All:* Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**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.

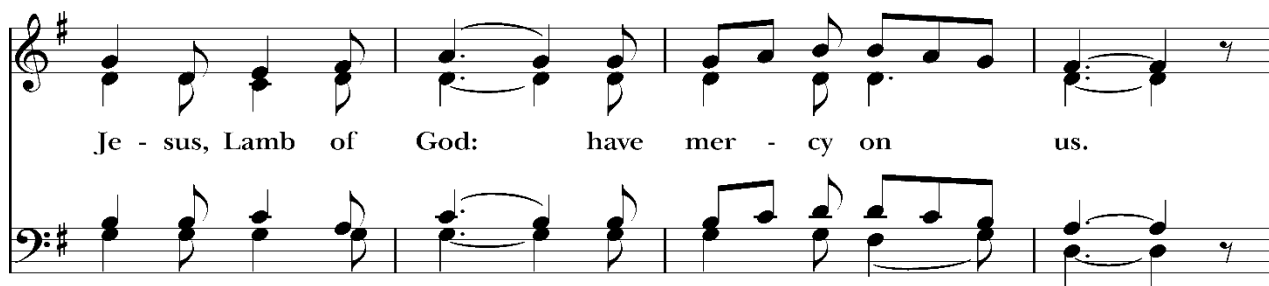
*All:* **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER |

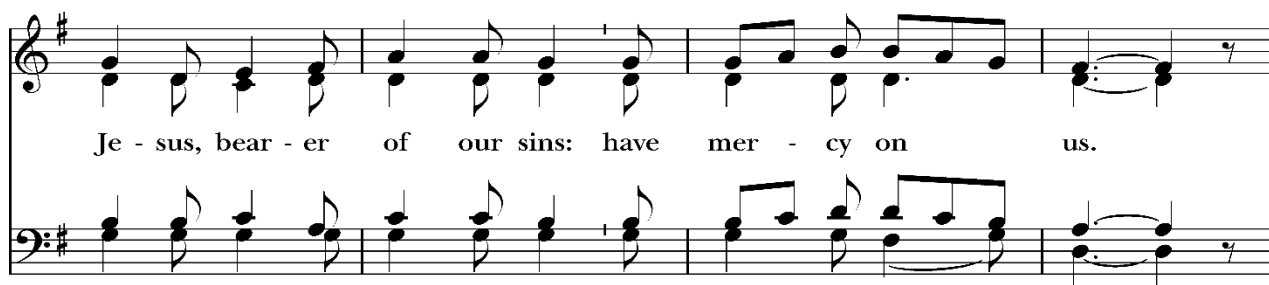
*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*All:* **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass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

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

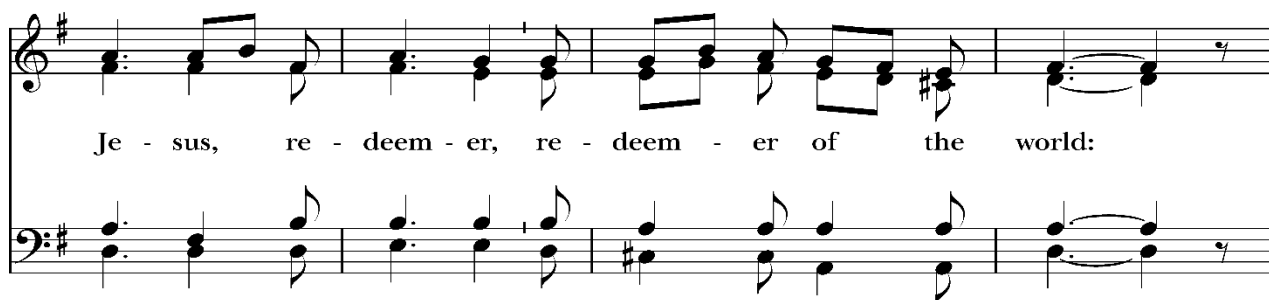
*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People:* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.



*The Gifts of God  
for the People of God*



1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with  
 2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished  
 3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in coun - tless  
 4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren  
 well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -  
 num - bers let them come and gath - er from their  
 world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall

thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.  
 va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.  
 Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.  
 all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

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

## EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m. service

*Celebrant:* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

*People:* We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

## THE BLESSING |

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

## CLOSING HYMN 569 | God the Omnipotent

*Russia*

1 God the Om - ni - po - tent! King, who or - dain - est  
 2 God the All - mer - ci - ful! earth hath for - sak - en  
 3 God the All - right - eous One! earth hath de - fied thee;  
 4 God the All - prov - i - dent! earth by thy chas - tening

thun - der thy clar - ion, the light - ning thy sword;  
 thy ways all ho - ly, and slight - ed thy word;  
 yet to e - ter - ni - ty stand - eth thy word,  
 yet shall to free - dom and truth be re - stored;

show forth thy pi - ty on high where thou reign - est:  
 bid not thy wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en:  
 false - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side thee:  
 through the thick dark - ness thy king - dom is haste - ning:

give to us peace in our time, O Lord.  
 give to us peace in our time, O Lord.  
 give to us peace in our time, O Lord.  
 thou wilt give peace in thy time, O Lord.

## THE DISMISSAL |

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

## Assisting in Worship Today

### 10:30 a.m. Service

**Lector/Reader:** Cheryl Lucente

**Chalicerist:** Ivy Amponsah

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

### Altar Guild

Cheryl Lucente, Leigh Smith, Pamela Foreman

### Tellers

Cherry Williams, Diana Hall

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## PARISH CALENDAR

### AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

#### Sunday, August 31

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – New Brick
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David – Old Brick
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom

#### Monday, September 1

All Day	Church Office Closed – Labor Day
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

#### Tuesday, September 2

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Christ Church Yoga Summer Camp – Sanctuary
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, lower level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	300-yr Race & Slavery Comm. Mtg – Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm	WOCC Meeting – New Brick, lower level & Zoom

#### Wednesday, September 3

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

(continued)

### Thursday, September 4

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

### Friday, September 5

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 11:00 pm	WOCC Toby's Dinner Theater "Saturday Night Live"
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

### Saturday, September 6

9:00 – 3:00 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild Prep

## Welcome, Yehi

Over the past several years, I have been in conversation with Virginia Theological Seminary about the possibility of assigning a seminarian who would benefit from the vibrant life that abounds here at Christ Church and also learn the art of ministry from our clergy, lay leadership, and parishioners.

I am pleased to announce that Yehi has been assigned to Christ Church for the coming academic year. He brings a lot of gifts to our congregation, and we are blessed to have him with us. Yehi will be working primarily with the youth, lead us in worship, and also preach at all three services during the year.

Yehi will join us this Sunday at both services, and it is my prayer that you will offer him the Christ Church welcome.

Manny+

Please read about Yehi below:



***The Rev. Yehinuel Oshokhai Odidi, the youngest of three sons, hails from Nigeria and was born into a family with a strong priestly legacy in the Anglican tradition. He is currently a middler in the M.Div. program at Virginia Theological Seminary.***

***From his teenage years, Yehi actively served in the Church and in various youth fellowships. He was the Chapel Prefect and also the president of the Fellowship of Christian Students in high school. In the university, Yehinuel served as the Bible Study Coordinator and Secretary for the Anglican Youth Fellowship of All Saints Anglican Church, Zaria. Ordained as a deacon in 2024 and a priest in June 2025, Yehinuel brings years of experience working with children, youth, and young adults. His passion is to help them cultivate a deeper intimacy with God and guide them in showing the love and life of Christ in their communities. He is married to his sweetheart, Emmanuella.***

# 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**

## Christ Church's Fall Service Schedule Begins Next Sunday, September 7

On Sunday, September 7th, Christ Church begins its fall schedule with three services. The first service takes place in Old Brick at 8:00 a.m. and does not contain music. Our popular Family Worship returns to New Brick at 9:00, featuring songs, stories, and communion centered around the younger members of our church. Then at 10:30, we have Holy Eucharist with choral and music accompaniment, also in New Brick. Sunday School, Youth Formation, Sunday Circle, and all of our other formation and fellowship gatherings also begin that day. No matter what service or classes you choose, we hope to see you because EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

## Taizé at Christ Church - September 7

Taizé Vespers is a liturgy of Evening Prayer that combines scripture readings, prayer, silent meditation, and rich music. On the first Sunday evening of each month, Christ Church offers this truly beautiful service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France.

This community promotes peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Our Taizé Vespers service reflects the Taizé style, emphasizing attention to silence, holy words, prayer, and singing, and offers an opportunity to meditate and reflect on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims - in our case, your friends and neighbors - on the journey.

## Register Now for Sunday School and Youth Formation!

From Autumn through Spring, Faith Formation is thriving at Christ Church, and anyone ages pre-K to 12th grade is invited to gather with us next fall. It's a program of age-appropriate classes that's relevant and engaging, and we're looking forward to an exciting year!

Christ Church's Sunday School and Youth Formation ministry believes in growing a deep and wide faith in kids through education in the Gospel, serving our community, and fellowship with one another. From the earliest age, we want kids to know the basic truths of God's Word and how we can apply those in our daily lives. Our dedicated and trained Sunday School team provides age-appropriate groups where the kids can connect and learn with one another.

Registration is now open, so please learn more and complete our registration form here: [cecevents.org/SundaySchool-2526](https://cecevents.org/SundaySchool-2526) (one form per child, please), so we can reserve space for your children.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please email [sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## Church Office Closed - This Monday

In observance of Labor Day, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 1st, and reopen on Tuesday, September 2nd. If you require pastoral care on Labor Day weekend, please contact Father Manny - [revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org).

## 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).

## WOCC News for September

WOCC meetings resume this coming week, so join us! The first is next Tuesday evening, September 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. and is a hybrid meeting - you can gather with us in New Brick (lower level), or join virtually via Zoom. - [the link is here](#), Meeting ID is **843 0204 4790**, and Passcode is **cecWOCC**. We are also planning our annual **Flea Market and Craft Fair for September 20th**, and need all the help to run the event and contribute to the Bake Sale table, BBQ station, Book tables, and White Elephant tables. We need help with setup and cleanup, and also need a lot more people to help us direct traffic. Simply put, ***this event is impossible*** to hold without the efforts of many volunteers. So, please consider joining us for a few hours on September 20th, as we aim to show the community we live in that we can put on a fun and safe event that welcomes everyone. You can find the Flea Market sign-up sheet in the Narthex in New Brick [or visit the online sign-up sheet here](#). We also still have spaces available for rent for the event; [visit our website for more details](#). Thank you!

## Christ Church Choir Returns! - Thursdays

Get ready, all you singers and music lovers! The choir has resumed rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings, 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 to give it a shot in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa at church on Sundays or email her at [music@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org).

## Join the Christ Church Vestry

The nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun. We have a few submissions to date, but you are welcome to submit yours, as well. If you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and a giving member of record at Christ Episcopal Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. This year, four Vestry slots are open; we need your unique gifts to help us, so we hope you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, October 19th. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing [nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org), and they will let you know what's needed for this process. Thank you for your consideration.

## September Screenings - September 12 & 13

Some new films are scheduled for September, so grab some movie snacks and head to the CEC campus for these.

You can view the trailer of the Friday, September 12th film *The Grace Card* [here](#), and meet up in the Parish Hall basement at 7:00 p.m. for the screening and discussion. Then, watch the trailer for the film *Facing the Giants* [here](#), and join us in the New Brick Piano Room this Saturday, September 13th, at 9:00 a.m. during [September's Center for Spiritual Nourishment](#) for the viewing and discussion of that film.

## The 2025 Flea Market - September 20

In about one month, it'll be time for that wonderful Columbia summertime tradition, the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. This year, it's on Saturday, September 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (rain date 9/27), and it takes place on the Christ Church campus.

This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. You can have your own space in the market, or if you're cleaning out closets or garages, the church will be sponsoring the White Elephant tables (proceeds go to support the [Interfaith Refugee Ministry](#)) & welcomes your unwanted treasures. Whether you're a vendor or a participant, you can learn more on our website - [www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market).



Donations are welcome for the Book Sale and White Elephant tables, and those can be dropped off in the Parish Hall (lower level of office building) on:

- Sunday, Sept. 14th, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Monday Sept. 15th to Friday Sept 19th from 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 17th, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

And we also need volunteers - LOTS of volunteers - to help with directing traffic and general assistance around the event. Put simply, this event is impossible to host without your help - and with the Flea Market being one of the largest fundraising activities of the year, it would be a great loss if we couldn't host it, so **please visit our online sign-up sheet**. Lending a hand for a few hours on September 20th (even if you only have one or two to spare) would make a world of difference. Thank you!

## **Financial Peace University Returns**

As a community of faith, one of the gifts we can offer each other is the prudent use of our resources. Early this decade, before COVID-19 upended everyone's lives, we began Financial Peace University here at Christ Church, and it's back beginning this September. This multi-week seminar aims to help parishioners manage their finances and provide them with the tools to be better stewards of what they earn. Even in its incomplete form, this was a life-changer for people who took advantage of the opportunity at the time. We are pleased to offer this class again in the fall, but it is limited to 10 people/families, so if you're interested, let us know as soon as possible. The class will meet on Monday evenings, and the cost is \$100 per person/family. For more information, please speak with Fr. Manny at church on a Sunday or email the office at [\*\*office@christchurchcolumbia.org\*\*](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org).

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

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild or Buildings and Grounds ministries. None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email [\*\*altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org\*\*](mailto:altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org) and if you're interested in assisting Inreach or as a Teller, LEV, or Acolyte, please call the Church Office at [\*\*office@christchurchcolumbia.org\*\*](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org).

## **Helping the Homeless from Head to Toe, Christ Church Provides a Donation of Socks in Addition to our Monthly Meals at the DRC**

Your generosity has begun to ease life for our homeless neighbors who rely on sundries from the Day Resource Center (DRC) pantry, one of the services of the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center**. When the Christ Church meals team served our latest monthly meal at the DRC, the staff requested a supply of socks for its pantry. Many of the DRC clients live outdoors in a vehicle or in a tent in the vicinity of MD Rt. 1 in Jessup. They spend a lot of time on their feet. In response, the Outreach Commission approved an order of 120 pairs of men's crew socks for \$140. These were purchased with funds donated to the church by parishioners who give to "General Outreach." A heartfelt thanks!

Socks aren't the only special item that Christ Church volunteers recently provided to the DRC. During the Aug. 11 meal, our Grassroots volunteers brought bouquets of fresh flowers grown at Blue Gables Farm and sold at the Oakland Mills Farmers Market. During the July 14 meal, our team took along "blessings" bags containing treats and notes to DRC diners handwritten by children at Vacation Bible School.

If you would like to participate on the next date to serve or deliver meals for the homeless, mark your calendars for Monday, Sept. 8. Check our **DRC online signup form**, which describes the midday procedure. Check our **Grassroots online signup form** for details on contributing to the evening meal.

## Go Golfing Next Month to Help Bridges to Housing Stability

Golfers can have fun and support a worthy cause on Friday, Sept. 19. **Bridges to Housing Stability** will hold the fourth annual **Sheehy Toyota Birdies for Bridges Golf Tournament** at The Timbers of Troy, 6100 Marshalee Dr., Elkridge, Md. Participants will help Bridges achieve its mission – advocating for affordable housing and helping individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

The tournament begins with a light breakfast, a shotgun start at 9 a.m., and a full day of golf, food, and awards. Check-in opens at 7:45 a.m. The cost for a single golfer is \$200, or \$800 for a foursome, which covers greens fees, unlimited range balls, food and beverages.

By golfing during “Birdies for Bridges,” you’ll help to provide a path to self-sufficiency and further Bridges’ aim to prevent and end homelessness in Howard County. Christ Church has been a supporter of Bridges in various ways since 2019.

## Columbia Community Care Will Close on Labor Day Weekend

**Columbia Community Care** (CCC) announced it will close its pantry and distribution sites on Saturday, Aug. 30, in observation of the Labor Day holiday weekend. Its three distribution sites will reopen the following Saturday, Sept. 6, at Long Reach Village Center, Suite 107, 8775 Cloudleap Ct., Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., and at The Barn at Oakland Mills Village Center, 5853 Robert Oliver Place, all in Columbia.

Earlier in the summer, CCC and **FISH** partnered to provide food services for Howard County residents. The two organizations have merged their pantries. FISH will continue to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. CCC will continue making distributions at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery. For information, go online at CCC’s **Get Help** page. For updates, and other community activities, check the **CCC Facebook Group**.

Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label “FISH/CCC”. Please keep bringing baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes. FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents to provide guidance and financial support because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. You could be the one to lend a helping hand, by lending an ear!

Consider volunteering from home by giving just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong or email [andydelong.fish@gmail.com](mailto:andydelong.fish@gmail.com). Thanks for your 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](mailto:outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org). Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.

**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S  
OUTREACH, YOUTH, AND OTHER PARISH NEWS**  
including website and email links, and Zoom meeting details



GET READY FOR

**Sunday**  
**SCHOOL**  
at Christ Church

**BEGINS SEPTEMBER 7**

**9:30 AM**

**REGISTER TODAY!**



or visit

[CEEvents.org/SundaySchool-2526](https://CEEvents.org/SundaySchool-2526)

[WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG)



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

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

**Vestry**

Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*)

• Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Jay Abbott • George Toth •  
Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms