

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, August 25, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

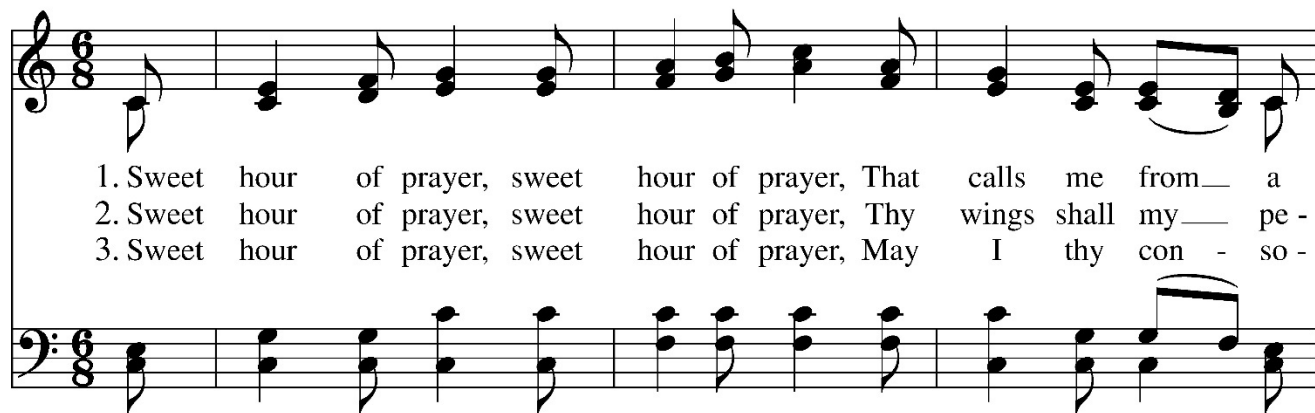


Welcome Home!

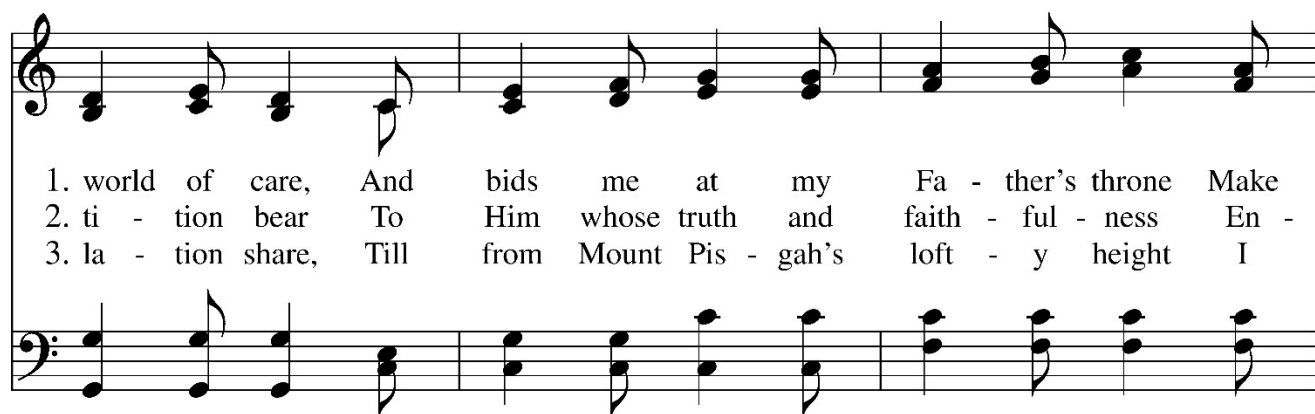
Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community:

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!



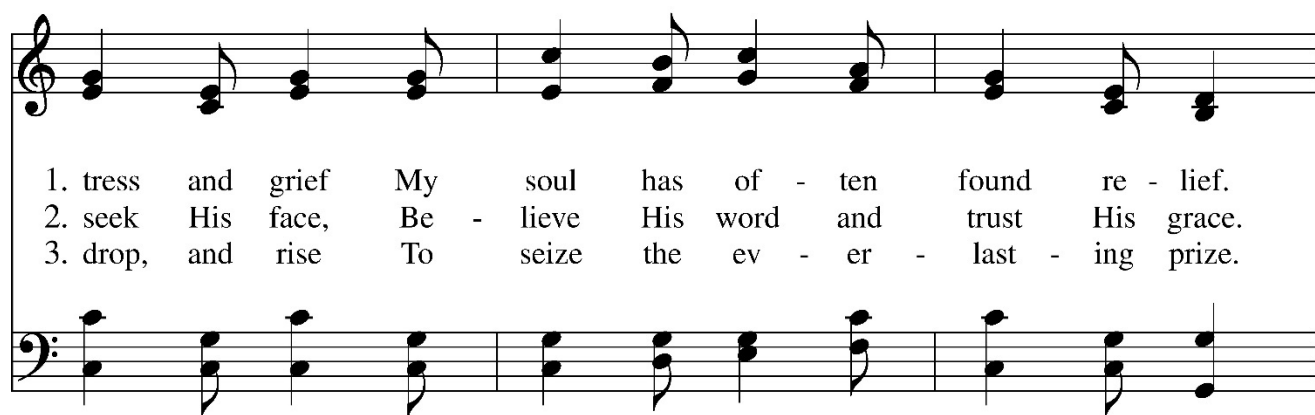
1. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from— a
 2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my— pe -
 3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, May I thy con - so -



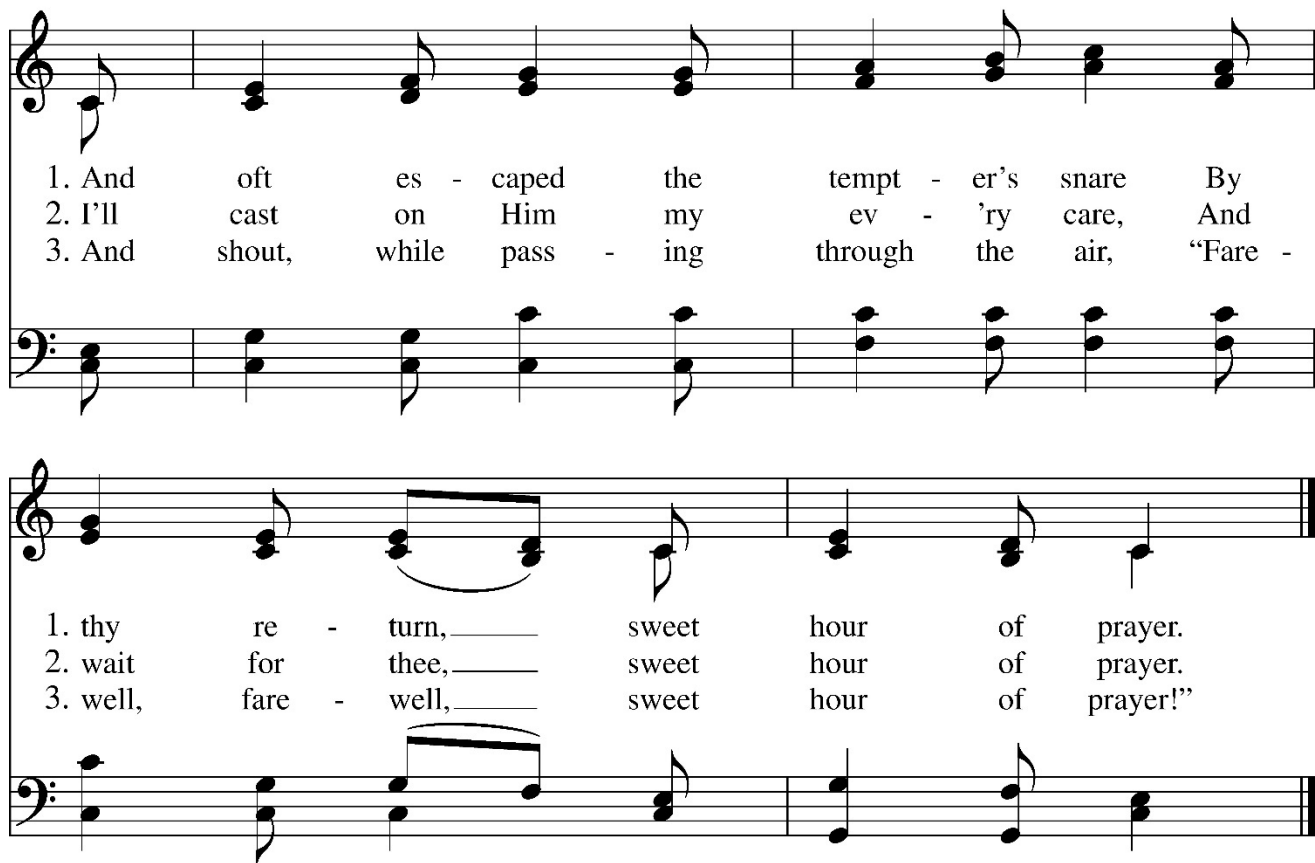
1. world of care, And bids me at my Fa - ther's throne Make
 2. ti - tion bear To Him whose truth and faith - ful - ness En -
 3. la - tion share, Till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I



1. all my wants— and wish - es known. In sea - sons of dis -
 2. gage the wait - ing soul to bless; And since He bids me
 3. view my home— and take my flight: This robe of flesh I'll



1. tress and grief My soul has of - ten found re - lief.
 2. seek His face, Be - lieve His word and trust His grace.
 3. drop, and rise To seize the ev - er - last - ing prize.



1. And oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare By
 2. I'll cast on Him my ev - 'ry care, And
 3. And shout, while pass - ing through the air, "Fare -

1. thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
 2. wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
 3. well, fare - well, sweet hour of prayer!"

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. **Amen.**



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



The Collect |

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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18 |

Reader: A reading from Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel:

“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

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

The following Psalm is read responsively by half verse.

Psalm 34:15-22 | *Benedicam Dominum*

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, *
and his ears are open to their cry.

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, *
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them *
and delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted *
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.

Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.

He will keep safe all his bones; *
not one of them shall be broken.

Evil shall slay the wicked, *
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

A Reading from Ephesians 6:10-20 |

Reader: A reading from the Epistle to the Ephesians.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn 488 | Be Thou My Vision

Slane

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

The Gospel | John 6:56-69

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

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

Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

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.

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 |

Loving God, we humbly offer our prayers of thanksgiving on our last Sunday of the summer and on the joyous occasion of our Parish Ministry Festival. We are grateful for all the ministries of Christ Church that provide outreach, pastoral care and spiritual nourishment to our local, national and international communities. During our Rector's sabbatical, we've been truly blessed with our clergy and staff and their gifts of compassion, leadership, and teaching. May we keep their spiritual guidance in our hearts as we strive to follow in the way of Jesus. **Lord, be with us.**

Today we pray for those who are impoverished or forced to live under harsh conditions. We pray that our own society may be cleansed from religious and ethnic hatred and discrimination. We ask for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land. We pray for an end to the violence and famine in Gaza. Globally, we pray for the people of East Africa affected by drought, hunger and malnutrition and for the victims of civil war in the Sudan. We hold up in prayer all persons living under oppressive governments. We pray for the millions of refugees displaced from their homes by violence. May world leaders seek ways to end further suffering. May we encourage peace and provide relief to all affected people. **Lord, be with us.**

In today's Church, we give thanks for the work of the Anglican Church in La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for Advent, Baltimore; Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore; and Church on the Square, Baltimore. We pray for our spiritual leaders: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Sean, our Presiding Bishop-Elect; our Diocesan Bishop, Carrie; and all Christ Church's clergy and staff. We warmly welcome all newcomers and visitors worshipping with us today. We're grateful for the opportunity to share this time together. **Lord, be with us.**

We pray for healing for those who are ill, in body, mind or spirit, especially Rachan, Ian, Leigh, Ron, Jerry, Dick, Dawn, Kim, Sabrina, Brian, Jim, Erica, Marilyn, Carolyn, Mary Ann, Barbara, Cindy, Tim, Sherry, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred, and Nell, and those we now name. We give thanks for all family, friends and caregivers, who provide love, and compassion to those who are suffering. **Lord, be with us.**

We pray for the souls of those who have departed this life and give thanks for their lives among us especially those we now name. We ask that you comfort those who mourn and guide us in providing comfort to them. **Lord, be with us.**

We give thanks for opportunities to celebrate the birthdays, wedding and baptismal anniversaries and other joyful occasions of members of our Christ Church Family especially Zion, Samuella, Kevin, Sara & Kevin, Denisa & Ayub Abdallah, Shirley & Jesse Funches, Cindy & Arnold Solomon and Alex & Michael. **Lord, be with us.**

May we always remember that we who are many are one body in Christ. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin |

Deacon: 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.

Welcome and Announcements |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn 529 | In Christ There Is No East or West

McKee

Unison or harmony

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
 2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-
 3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

3 him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
 e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther
 him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

6 ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

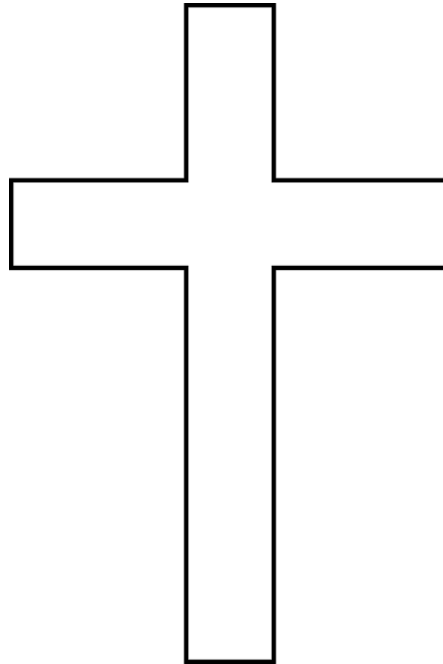
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Doxology Hymn 380 (v. 1) |

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.**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

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

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who 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 |

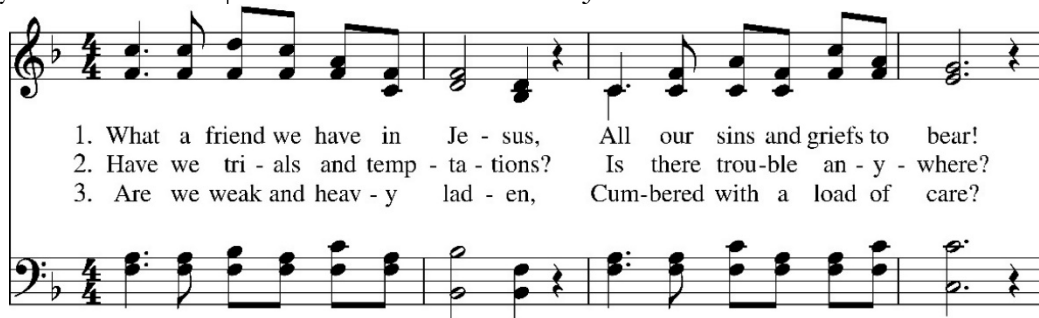
Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Fraction Anthem LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

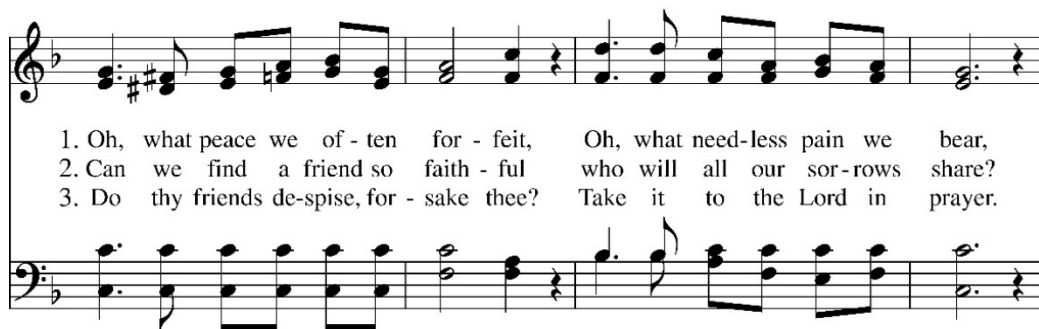
The musical score is written for organ and voice in the key of D major (two sharps). It consists of four staves. The organ part is indicated by the word 'organ' above the first staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The music features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.'



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



1. What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 2. We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 3. Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.



1. Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 2. Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 3. Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



1. All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 2. Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 3. In his arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

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

Closing Hymn 490 | I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

a tempo

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Dismissal |

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

Postlude |

PERMISSIONS | *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928 & 1979, Church Publishing. Public Domain | Music/texts under copyright are reprinted and broadcast by permission under OneLicense.net #A-701378 | *Holy, Holy, Holy*, from *A Mass for a Soulful People*, Grayson Warren Brown

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Lector/Reader: Steve Alpern

Ushers: Jo Emily Knox, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah, Hope Oladipupo, Eva Oladipupo, Kayode Fatodu

Acolytes and Crucifer: Ava Fox, Danny Jackson, James Mercer

Chalicians: Steve Alpern, Joan Harvey

Altar Guild

Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett

Tellers

Sarah Mugo, Mary Oladipupo

CELEBRANT FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

The Rev. Emmanuel Mercer, *Rector*



SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN, SO PLEASE CLICK THE IMAGE BELOW OR VISIT AND COMPLETE OUR REGISTRATION FORM ONLINE AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CECSUNDAYSCHOOL24-25](https://tinyurl.com/CECSUNDAYSCHOOL24-25) (ONE FORM PER CHILD, PLEASE) SO THAT WE CAN RESERVE SPACE(S) FOR YOUR CHILD(REN)!

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 8TH AND CONTINUE UNTIL THE SPRINGTIME. WE GATHER FROM 9:30 TO 10:15 A.M., AFTER THE 9:00 CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORSHIP IN NEW BRICK HAS CONCLUDED. THIS SCHOOL YEAR, WE ARE USING THE *EPISCOPAL CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM* AND ARE IN THE "CROSS YEAR" ([HTTPS://VTS.EDU/EPISCOPAL-CHILDRENS-CURRICULUM-CROSS-YEAR-MATERIAL-DOWNLOADS](https://vts.edu/episcopal-childrens-curriculum-cross-year-material-downloads)) WHERE KIDS WILL ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT GOD'S WORD THROUGH GAMES, ACTIVITIES, MULTIMEDIA, AND FELLOWSHIP. WE SING SONGS, MAKE CRAFTS, AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS. ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME! WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN US, EITHER EACH SUNDAY OR ONCE IN A WHILE. WE CAN ALWAYS USE MORE HELPERS TO MAKE SUNDAY SCHOOL A MORE ENJOYABLE TIME FOR EVERYONE! PLEASE EMAIL JENNIFER ATKINS AT SUNDAYSCHOOL@CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG IF YOU'RE INTERESTED OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

PARISH CALENDAR

AUGUST 25 TO AUGUST 31

Sunday, August 25

10:00 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am	Parish Festival – New Brick, lower level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, August 26

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
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, August 27

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Vestry Meeting – New Brick, lower level & Zoom
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Wednesday, August 28

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

Thursday, August 29

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:45 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
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

Friday, August 30

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, August 31

10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
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.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

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! You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church, or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Choir - August 29

C'mon, all you singers and music lovers! The choir begins rehearsing again in New Brick starting on Thursday, August 29th, and people of all ages are welcome to join us. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa on Sundays or email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

Father Manny Returns - September 1

That's right - Father Manny's first part of his sabbatical ends soon, and he returns to lead us in worship next Sunday, September 1st. Be sure to gather with us at either 8:00 or 10:30 to welcome him back.

WOCC's September Meeting - September 3

The WOCC holds its first meeting for the second half of 2024 on Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:30 p.m. It will be a hybrid event, so you're welcome to gather with us in New Brick or on Zoom - the link is here, the Meeting ID is 843 0204 4790 and the Passcode is cecWOCC. The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick and on our website and contains all the fun events planned for the rest of this year. Come join us for these events! Speak to any WOCC member, or email us at WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

First Wednesday Fellowship - September 4

September's FWF will be on September 4th, and our theme - *Restart in September* - centers around a healthy kick-off for fall! Gather with us at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall as we try and return to healthy routines and habits after the summer. There will be a delicious and nutritious meal for dinner, along with a special challenge to participate in during the month - and those of you who bring their completed challenge back at the October FWF will be entered into an amazing gift card drawing!

Movie Night at Christ Church - September 6

Grab your favorite movie munchies (bring enough for everyone!) and come join us for a new film in the "Science Supporting Spiritual Reality" series. On Friday, September 6th at 7 p.m. in the lower level of the Parish Hall, parishioner George Toth will present the BBC documentary *The Day I Died* (you can read more about this film here). You can also read more about the background of George's film series here, and if you're interested in presenting a film of your own at Christ Church, please email us.

Christ Church's Fall Service Schedule - Begins September 8

On Sunday, September 8th, Christ Church begins its fall schedule with three services. The first service takes place in Old Brick at 8 a.m. and does not contain music. Our Children & Family Worship resumes in New Brick at 9 a.m. and is focused on the younger members of our church. Then at 10:30, we have Holy Eucharist with choral and musical accompaniment, and it's also in New Brick. Whichever you choose, we hope to see you because ALL ARE WELCOME. Sunday School, Youth Formation, Sunday Circle, and all of our other formation and fellowship gatherings also begin that day. Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/sundays for the details.

Deacon Denise Celebration - September 8

We'd rather not think about this, but we have to... Deacon Denise's service at Christ Church is soon coming to an end, and she will then begin her new ministry at St. Peter's in Ellicott City. Before she does, we are having a huge celebration in her honor on Sunday, September 8th after the 10:30 worship. It's a potluck so please visit www.tinyurl.com/CEC-DeaconDenise and sign up to bring something for our meal together.

CEC Book Club - September 12

The CECBC will resume in a few weeks, so if you're interested in reading great books and discussing them with a friendly, engaging, and welcoming group of fellow parishioners, join us! We choose a book as a group, read a chapter or two each week, and then gather virtually for an hour or so each Thursday to share our thoughts. Our next book will be David Brooks' *The Road to Character*, and you can pick it up ahead of time to get ready (it also comes in large print). The Zoom link is here, the Meeting ID is 817 9855 4366 and the Passcode is CECbooks.

The Annual Flea Market and Craft Fair - Saturday, September 14

The Christ Church Community Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC, will take place on the CEC campus on Saturday, September 14th! Spaces are now available, and you can complete yours by picking one up in the Narthex or by downloading a copy from our website at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market. And start getting your gently used books, baked goods recipes, and other items ready - this is the WOCC's biggest fundraiser, and proceeds help support many Christ Church activities and gatherings throughout the year. The more people involved in this community gathering, the more successful this important event can be!

Second Annual Community Health & Wellness Fair - Saturday, September 21

Our Health Ministry is proud to announce the second annual Community Health and Wellness Fair, and on Saturday, September 21st from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., everyone is welcome to gather in the Great Hall as many booths and presentations will address a wide range of health and wellness topics and concerns. This event can show you many ways to improve your mental, physical, or family health. Visit tinyurl.com/CEC-2024HealthFair for more details and email health@christchurchcolumbia.org if you'd like to help or have any questions.

"Leading in Divided Times" - October 8

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and the One America Movement are excited about the upcoming series of workshops: "Leading in Divided Times." This four-part series will allow both clergy and lay leaders to gather and will be broken into four sections. Each session will be livestreamed on Zoom beginning on the evening of Tuesday, October 8th and everyone is welcome to take part. If you would like more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/3xMcq8L>.

Christ Church's Annual Auction - Begins October 26

GET READY - the 35th Annual Christ Church Auction is going to Paris! Well... not quite, but we *are* giving it a bit of French flair, and we hope you'll gather with us for what's surely to be the event of the year! Once again, we will hold the online portion for one week, with everything culminating in a fun- and fellowship-filled evening with our Silent and Live Auctions and Raffle Drawing. Start thinking about great gifts and ideas that you can donate to help raise funds that support many of our ministries and activities, and remember - the success of our Auction is greatly dependent on YOU!

Mark your calendars!

- Enter donations on the Auction website by Sunday, October 6
- The online auction runs from October 26 - November 2
- Silent and live auctions & raffle drawing on Saturday night, November 2

The Auction page on our website is up and running - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/auction - and you can find the Donation portal link there now. And check back often, as we'll provide more details over the coming months. If you would like to volunteer to help or have any questions, please email auction@christchurchcolumbia.org.

What is EfM? Read On...

Education for Ministry is a unique 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.

Our Altar Guild Needs Your Assistance

The Christ Church Altar Guild is looking for a few more people to help us in our ministry of providing clean linens and liturgical items for every worship service. We currently have three teams, but if we can create one more, then each only has to manage one week a month. If you are interested in signing up, please speak with Pam Foreman or any Altar Guild member, or visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/altar-guild.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday!

Plans for Christ Church's 300th year are well underway, but we are always looking for more input, so join us! This celebration is a massive milestone for our church, and we want participation and ideas from as many people as possible. There are a variety of committees that you can serve on and so we would like to encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you have ideas, are interested in assisting, or need more information, please speak with Robin Bradley at church or email 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Helps Fund a Physical Therapist at CCD-Thailand

To help disabled children live more fulfilling lives, Christ Church has long supported [CCD-Thailand](#). The non-profit organization, Christian Care Foundation for Children with Disabilities, relies on a community-based model that prevents institutionalization.

Recently the Outreach Commission approved a donation of \$2,500 to CCD to be used toward the salary of a physical therapist. CCD Founder and Executive Director Wasan Saenwian expressed gratitude: "I would like to thank Christ Church very much."

Funds are derived from parishioner donations to Outreach and the Vestry-approved budget. Thank you on behalf of the youth and their families in Thailand whose lives are brighter as a result of your generosity. This is in keeping with the mission of the Outreach Commission to support organizations – local, national, and international – that enhance the lives of people in need.

CCD currently serves 107 children in four settings. The largest, Rainbow House, is a residential facility that also offers 30 day-care slots. Another, called New Hope, is an early childhood development center. Parishioners can find facts about CCD on [its portion of the Outreach menu](#) on the church website. An "Excellent" rating in 2023 led to an award from Thailand's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Saenwian regularly updates Christ Church through Outreach member Michon Semon, who has personal connections with CCD from her work for the organization in Thailand and elsewhere. "May the Lord bless you," he wrote. "We all are well," he said, describing a "very active" team of leaders and a staff of 36, two of whom are physical therapists. They enable children and young people to improve mobility.

Save on Coffee: Buy DreamBuilders Goods On Sunday at this Sunday's Parish Festival

Look for coffee and tea being sold to benefit [DreamBuilders](#) at the Parish Festival this Sunday, Aug. 25. The fair-trade coffees will be half-price to clear the way for renewed inventory in the fall. There's a limited selection of teas. It's for a good cause as teams prepare to travel to rebuild after disasters. In June, Christ Church Director of Youth & Family Ministries Kiona Lookingbill and two youth helped build homes in Kentucky.

Donate Items to the Flea Market, and Help Support Our Refugee Ministry

Please donate your in-good-condition rummage sale items to the Refugee Ministry table at the September 14th flea market. We'll take just about anything that's in good condition (but not clothes and not furniture that won't fit in a car's back seat or trunk). Watch for information on where and when to bring it to the parish hall (not yet!!). If you need us to pick up your items, have any questions, or would like to help (you'll get first pick!), please email parishioners Paula Rees (cprees@comcast.net), Diana Hall (dbhallmd@gmail.com), or Ann Barnes (annbarnes001@comcast.net), or speak with them at church. Thank you for your support.

Have Fun While Helping Bridges to Housing Stability at Its Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, Sept. 20

Advocating for affordable housing and helping individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads is the mission of Bridges to Housing Stability. Now golfers can support the work and enjoy an outing on Friday, Sept. 20. Bridges will hold the annual Sheehy Toyota Bridges for Birdies Golf Tournament at The Timbers of Troy, 6100 Marshalee Dr., Elkridge, MD. The fun begins with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. and features a full day of golf, food, and awards. The cost for a single golfer is \$200, or \$800 for a foursome, which covers greens fees, unlimited range balls, food, and beverages. The event raises crucial operating funds, says Bridges Executive Director Jen Broderick. "Every swing, every hole, and every cheer helps us make real change in our community." Christ Church has been a supporter of Bridges since 2019.

Home Sweet Home

The WOCC, in partnership with Grassroots, is providing new "Home Sweet Home" kits for those who have been homeless and now found an opportunity to have a home of their own. The kits include much-needed, common materials for anyone who needs assistance with starting such an important life chapter. Please visit our sign-up sheet [here](#), which has specific items you can provide. From trash cans to gift cards, each item will make them feel more at home. Your item donations can then be deposited into the marked bin near the Outreach table in the Tower Room of New Brick. If you have any questions or need assistance, please speak with Jo Emily Knox or Sara Kirkpatrick at church, or email WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org. We hope you'll participate in this program, which ends on September 22nd.

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.

Text Giving

You can give securely and conveniently 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.

Online Giving

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our **overview page** for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at [**info@christchurchcolumbia.org**](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org)

Thank you.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev. Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

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*) • Deepti Jackson (*Youth Liaison*)

Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams