

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE – *People, Look East*

arr. Robert Hobby

INTROIT – *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Taizé/Jacques Berthier

Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord, And all people will see the salvation of our God.

OPENING HYMN 76

Winchester New

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF JOY

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Celebrant: Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace. Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Savior, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

Candle Lighting: 10:30am – Rebecca, Michael, Julianna & Madelyn Elser

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

Peace is like a shining light in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray:

People: **Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

RESPONSE

Ana Hernandez

First time: Cantor/Choir; Second time: All

If in your heart you make a manger for his birth then God will once a-
gain become a child on earth. If in your heart you make a manger for his birth
then God will once a - gain be - come a child on earth.

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.**

TRISAGION (*Said 3 times*)

BCP, p. 356

Celebrant: Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
***People:* Have mercy upon us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.
For God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
 have shaded Israel at God's command.
 For God will lead Israel with joy,
 in the light of his glory,
 with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

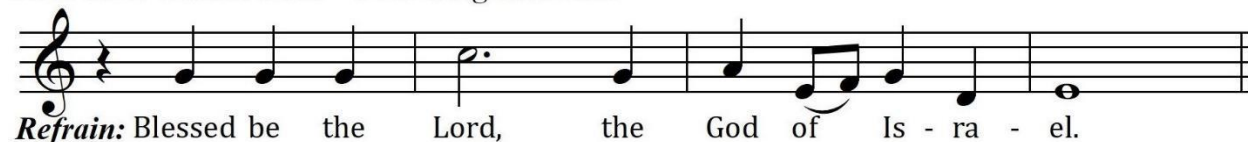
Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

CANTICLE 16 – Luke 1:68-79

Benedictus Dominus Deus

First time: Cantor/Choir Following times: All



The following Canticle is read responsively by half-verse.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
 that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us. Refrain

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
 Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. Refrain

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,
 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Refrain

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with

me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

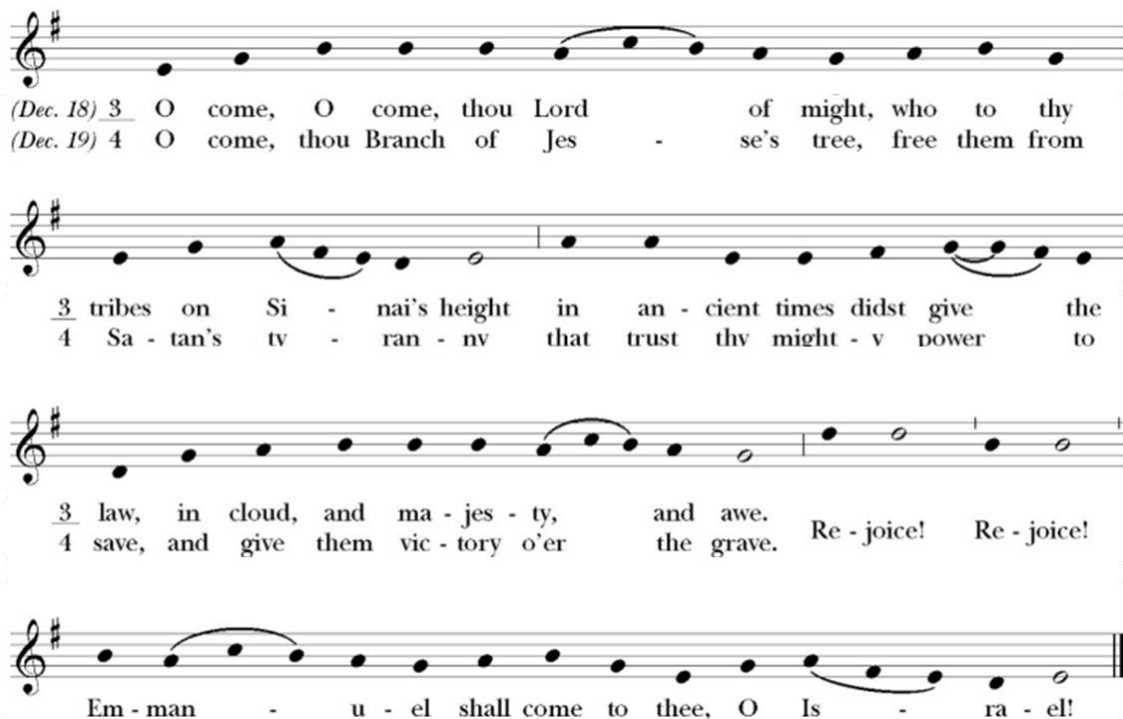
People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and remain standing for the reading of the Gospel and the prayers.

SEQUENCE HYMN 56 (V. 3, 4)

Veni Emmanuel

The first verse is sung as the Gospel is processed into the midst of the community; the second verse is sung as it is processed back to the altar.



(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from

3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's tv - ran - nv that trust thy might - v power to

3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

' Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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

SERMON

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

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

As we await the joy of the Lord's coming, let our love overflow. May we hold others in our hearts, spreading the good news of Christ to all. By the grace of God, we are freed from fear, brought into the right relationship with our Lord, and led into the light of His glory. ***Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.***

We pray for all of Christ's churches in the world that they may serve those experiencing poverty, disruptions in education, drought, natural disasters, homelessness, hunger, and violence. May we all be messengers of God's goodness and agents of peace. Today we pray especially for the Anglican Church of Burundi and in the Diocese of Maryland for our sister parishes of Grace, Elkridge; Holy Apostles and St. Stephen's, Arbutus; and St. Andrew's, Glenwood. We ask God's blessing for the leadership of our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Diocesan Bishops, Eugene and Robert; our Rector, Emmanuel; our Associate Priest, Marcia; our Deacon, Denise; and our Vestry. We extend our warmest welcome to all visitors and newcomers. We hope our worship and praise feed your spirits. Thank you for sharing your faith with our parish family. ***Lord, strengthen us.***

We pray for those ill among our families, friends, and faith community. We ask our Lord to restore all to health and wholeness, especially Sherry, Bunmi, Frantz, Sam, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Kathleen, Ashley & Jeanette, and those you now name. We cast all our troubles on Him, as He cares for us. We pray for the resolution of the COVID pandemic, the ability to prevent the spread of the virus, and treat infections. We pray for a return to active lives in our communities. ***Lord, let us dwell in Your goodness and mercy.***

May the Lord of all eternity open His arms to welcome those who have recently entered His heavenly kingdom, especially Stuart Cracraft, Carolyn Schlanger, Alma Carter & Sarah Mercer, and those you now name. May He comfort those who grieve and remain close to those alone and in turmoil. Our Lord's power is all-encompassing, and His love is everlasting. ***His Voice calms our hearts and souls.***

It is our pleasure to celebrate the joyous occasions of birthdays of our parish family this week, especially Setutsi, Monica, Nesta, Aisha, David, Vincent, & Chizoba. We recognize the hand of God in our lives and give thanks. ***Lord, Your blessings are plentiful.***

Let us humble ourselves to our Lord, that we might remain steadfast in our service and confident that Christ will strengthen and support us as we spread His word to all the world. Let us be prayerful, compassionate, and insightful as we witness 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.
***People:* 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

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING — *People, Look East*

arr. Malcom Archer

*People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.
Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.
Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

DOXOLOGY 380, V.3

Old 100th

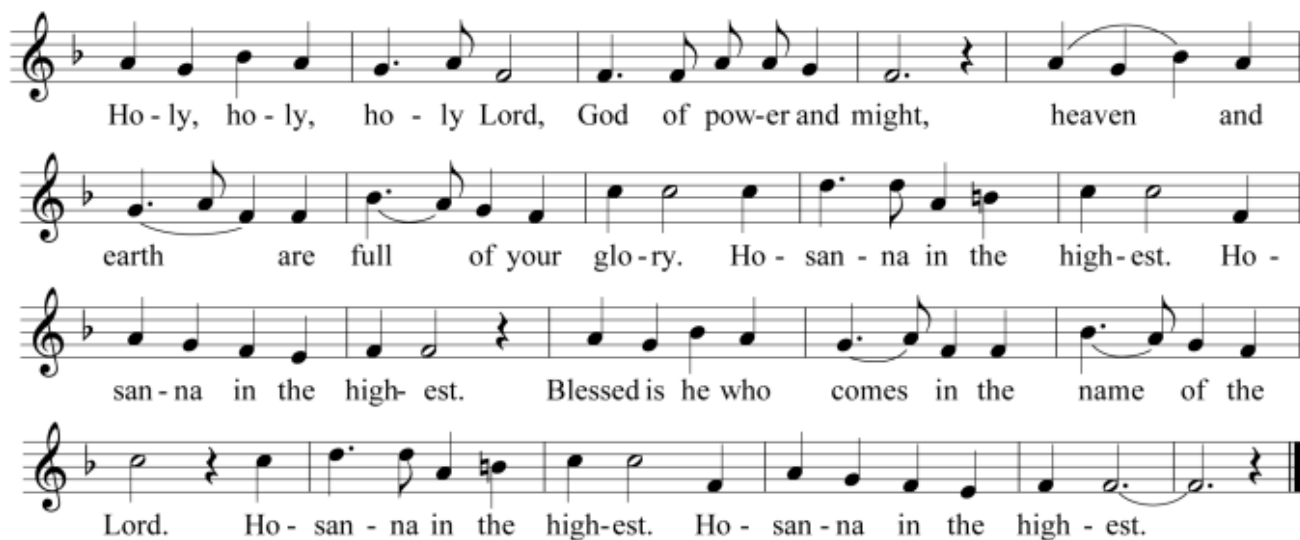
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The people stand as able.

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:



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

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

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

The Celebrant continues

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

FRACTION ANTHEM – Be known to us

St. James Advent Service, arr. Richard Shephard

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus Christ, in the break - ing of the bread.

God of hope and God of pro - mise, you have pre - pared a ban - quet for us,

Come, Lord Je - sus, come and cheer, Come and make thine Ad - vent here.



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

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 – 65

Bereden väg för Herran



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE – *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

arr. Robert Hobby

Today's altar greenery was donated by the Peart family in loving memory of Ella Adassa Rose Steele.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Our Season Schedule is Online | On our website, you'll find our entire schedule for the 2021 Advent and Christmas season. We will also have an Advent and Christmas trifold that provides a brief outline of upcoming gatherings, and you can grab one in the Narthex on Sunday.

WOCC Christmas Gathering - Sunday Afternoon | We will be holding our annual WOCC Christmas Gathering virtually, taking place this Sunday, December 5th from 1-4 p.m. The Zoom link is [here](#), Meeting ID is 821 7276 7335 and Password is Christmas!. There's lots of other news, including information on our 2021 Holiday Gift Drive for Springfield Hospital. You can see all of the current WOCC News on our website.

Adult and Children's Choir - Tuesdays and Thursdays | This week, Children's Choir meets next Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Adult Choir meets next Thursday at 7:30 p.m. If you've ever been interested in joining our choir, now's that time... and this invitation is open to every parishioner. No experience is necessary! Handbells and chimes will also be included in our rehearsals. Please email Len Langrick, our Director of Music, at music@christchurchcolumbia.org to learn more, or to RSVP for rehearsals.

We STILL Need More Ushers and Lectors! | The church needs you! We need ushers and lectors for both services, especially during the 8 a.m. service. You will serve at specified scheduled services and select events, will know your schedule well ahead of time, and all ushers and lectors will receive training before scheduling. Please contact Yetti Lipede at ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Altar Flowers and Gifts | If you would like to present Altar gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on an upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and sign-up sheet online at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts>. You can also sign up by using our [Realm Online Giving Form](#); just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *Fund* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and Service date in the Memo line. Any questions, please call the Church Office.

The Jesse Tree Project | This Advent season, Christ Church is launching a new Advent activity for all ages called The Jesse Tree Project. The Jesse Tree is a Scriptural depiction of Jesus Christ's Old Testament genealogy, connecting the salvation history of the Hebrew and Christian testaments. We also invite you to follow the daily video presentations each weekday throughout Advent, as Mother Marcia presents a new Bible story and Scripture passage along with a reflection and short prayer. You can find these on our website every morning. You'll also find a paper ornament pattern to cut out, decorate, and hang on your Jesse Tree at home. Ornaments from home can also join our handcrafted Jesse Tree ornaments in the Narthex to make a lasting display for years to come, so bring yours on Sunday! We hope that many of you will take part in what we hope will become a new tradition at Christ Church. Email Mother Marcia or our Communications Administrator, Chris, at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org if you have any questions.

Christmas Pageant Information | It is Christmas Pageant time! This year's pageant will take place on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and we will present a live Nativity. There will be no speaking parts. Children from preschool through 5th grade are invited to have a role. If your child would like to participate, please plan on attending our one rehearsal/costume time on December 19th at 9:15 a.m. (Sunday School time). We are looking forward to a fun event! Please sign up using this [link](#)!

Youth Choir Reunion | Did you ever sing in the Christ Church Youth Choir? If so, you are invited to sing one song at the conclusion of the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. There will be two opportunities to rehearse: December 19th from 11:45 a.m. – noon AND December 21st at 5 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net.

Angel Tree Drive Continues to Brighten Christmas for 12 Children | From an Easy-Bake Oven to socks and underwear, there are still slots remaining to grant the wishes of children on the 2021 Christ Church Angel Tree list. The Outreach Commission invites you to help bring the joy of Christmas to a group of 11- and 12-year-olds, whose names can be found in two places: on the signage by the actual Angel Tree in the Narthex, and online at the [Christ Church Angel Tree SignUp page](#). We are focusing our support on children in this age range to meet a need identified by the Howard County (Central Maryland) division of [The Salvation Army](#). The nonprofit organization, which oversees the Angel Tree initiative here and elsewhere, has announced a new theme for 2021: “Wear, Need, Want, Read!” Please plan to provide one or more gifts for a girl or boy on our list. There are a dozen children in our group. Each one will receive an outfit, consisting of pants and a top. Besides the clothing, there are three other categories this year for each angel: Wish, Need, and Educational Item. Some people prefer to sign up for a single slot, such as the practical (need) category for one child. Some parishioners desire to complete the entire “package” for an angel by signing up in all four categories. Another shopper might choose the clothing (outfit) category for multiple angels.

After you make your choices on the [Christ Church Angel Tree SignUp page](#), you’ll find instructions there on the next steps. Or, if you stop by the tree in the Narthex after services on Sunday, Dec. 5, someone will assist you in logging onto a device and will give you a handout with instructions. The deadline to bring unwrapped gifts is 2:30 p.m. on Friday, December 10th. If you wish to participate by giving of your time, please volunteer for one of two duties: Sign-up or Fulfillment. The former is to help people log on to a device after services on December 5th. The latter is to collate packages or to shop for --but not pay for-- any unmet items. Fulfillment occurs from December 10th through December 12th. To volunteer, specify Sign-up or Fulfillment, or both, in an email to outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. For any parishioners who have pandemic concerns and prefer completely contactless delivery, there is an arrangement between Salvation Army (Central Maryland) and Amazon. To use this method, you’ll need to choose an angel from a list that differs from the one given to Christ Church. Please request instructions on how to proceed by emailing outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Through either method, we will lift the hearts not only of the angels but of their families.

Friends of Sabina to Share Plans December 8th during their 2nd Annual Virtual Fundraiser | For more than a decade, Christ Church has backed efforts to educate students at Sabina Primary School in Uganda. Leaders of the nonprofit, [Friends of Sabina](#) (FOS), have kept us up to date on improvements, most recently at an online forum during virtual coffee hour on Aug. 1. Now parishioners have the chance to look forward along with other supporters of FOS during its virtual program, to be held from 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. EST on Wednesday, Dec. 8. The theme is W.A.S.H., which stands for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. You’ll find a link on the FOS [website](#) when the time comes to view the event. The Outreach Commission continues to encourage parishioners to sponsor Sabina students whose families otherwise cannot afford fees and tuition. (They are among Sabina students pictured here.) Parishioners stepped forward to sponsor eight children, whose photos are among a dozen shown on [this Christ Church site](#) that describes our support. Anyone interested in exploring that option is invited to email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Due to COVID-19 restrictions in Uganda, schools are not expected to reopen until at least January. But FOS has taken education packets to students' homes to keep them engaged in learning during the pandemic. Through Outreach, Christ Church also supports the Sabina library; it serves as a community center in a rural part of Uganda called the Kyotera District.

Columbia Community Care Holds a Holiday Toy Drive for Kids 2 to 12 Years Old | To help families celebrate the holidays, [Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC) is holding its annual [Holiday Toy Drive](#) to gather gifts and treats for children from 2 to 12 years old. Items such as crafts, books, puzzles, gloves, mittens, hats, and after-school snacks will be distributed on Saturday, December 11th. Please drop off new and unwrapped items by December 10th. This is in addition to the typical collection at Christ Church, which consists of diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Please put the holiday items along with the usual ones in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. You can drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday.

As an alternative, CCC offers a couple of other collection drop-offs on its [website](#) or its [Facebook group](#). Or go directly to either of the two CCC sites where gifts will be distributed: Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., and Oakland Mills Middle School, 9540 Kilimanjaro Road, both in Columbia. To drop off gifts, please arrive between 9 and 10 a.m.; to receive gifts, arrive between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., or while supplies last.

FISH Has an Updated Request: Cookies, Crackers, and Snacks | As the holidays begin, organizers for [FISH of Howard County](#) are making a more festive request than the previous one. Cookies, crackers, and snacks are what's needed at the pantry to fulfill shopping lists. They also say thanks to Christ Church for its response to their earlier needs, which produced an adequate inventory of household cleaning supplies and personal items. The bin is on the breezeway near the door to the Parish Hall.

Springfield Hospital Donations | The Women of Christ Church will once again be collecting Christmas gifts for our friends at Springfield Hospital. Though we haven't been able to make our usual visits due to the pandemic, we will be gathering gifts for them to bring a little Christmas joy. If you would like to contribute, we have placed a large container in the Tower Room to accept your unwrapped donations. We will need them by December 15th, in order to meet their deadline. If you want to donate gifts but can't get them to church, please contact Cathy Gold or email info@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we will find a way. [Here is the current wish list from Springfield Hospital, in case you would like suggestions.](#)

Baltimore Seafarer Ministry | Each year, the WOCC helps prepare those Seafarers that come to the Baltimore Harbor with 'Warmth and The Holidays'. These are people who are often away at sea for very long periods of time. Find the drop-off bin marked "Seafarers" in the Tower Room of New Brick, and bring items by this Monday, December 6th. Call Carolann Sawyer at 410-381-0123 if you have any questions. Please help by contributing any of these needed items: Calendars; Current magazines (especially National Geographic & Smithsonian); Toiletries for their "Christmas shoe boxes" that are handed out to each Seafarer, such as: toothbrushes, small and medium-size tubes of toothpaste, travel-size shaving cream, disposable razors, etc.; Warm socks, warm hats, and gloves.

2022 Stewardship Campaign: Pledge Cards are Now Available

Thank you for supporting our campaign!

We are very excited about Christ Church's 2022 Stewardship Campaign. As we all know, the past couple of years have been terribly difficult for everyone, but through it all, each one of you has been very generous to your beloved Christ Church. We mailed out our Annual Stewardship Pledge Cards to you last month. In addition to that, you can also pledge online at www.christchurchcolumbia.org. We will also have pledge cards in the narthex. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider your support to Christ Church throughout the coming year.

Text Giving

You can now give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text CECGIVING to 73256, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

Online Giving

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



Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Len Langrick, *Interim Music Director*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Tim Beaty • Jan DeBoissiere • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • Greta Pike-Barnes •

Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman