

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany | Digital Edition

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, January 29, 2023 • 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome Home!

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

Today's music was selected by Rebecca Warlow, winner of the Hymn Selection Auction Item.

Jan Deboissiere, vocals | JB Hanson, guitar | Shannon Pruitt, guitar

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude |

Opening Hymn 8 | Morning Has Broken

Bunessan

Unison or harmony

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____
born of the one light E - den saw play! _____

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! _____

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.**

Glory to God | S280 Canticle 20 | *Gloria in excelsis*

setting: Robert Powell

The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. Triplet markings (a '3' over a bracket) are used in the third, fourth, and sixth staves. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. 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. Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Father:
re - ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a- lone are the
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day |

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

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

A Reading from Micah 6:1-8 |

Reader: A reading from Micah.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

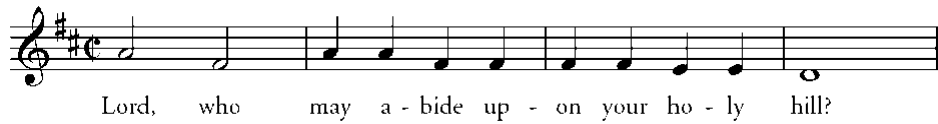
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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



LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *

who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue;

he does no evil to his friend; *

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

In his sight the wicked is rejected, *

but he honors those who fear the LORD.

Antiphon

He has sworn to do no wrong *

and does not take back his word.

He does not give his money in hope of gain, *

nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things *

shall never be overthrown.

Antiphon

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 |

Reader: A reading from Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

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

Sequence Hymn | On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas



The Gospel | Matthew 5:1-12

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

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Deacon: 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 Nicene Creed | BCP 358

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.

Oh, Lord, across the ages we hear the words of the prophet, Micah: “Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains and let the hills hear your voice.” Lord, we ask that You hear the prayers of Your people here today in Christ Church, Columbia. We pray: **Be with us, Lord.**

We ask Your help in living up to what You require of each of us –“to do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with our God.” These commands, so deceptively simple, so easy with which to agree, yet so hard to actually accomplish, cannot be lived without Your help. We pray: **Help us, Lord.**

Jesus tells the people gathered, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.” In these days of stark divisions - in our country, between peoples of different races and cultures, around the world in nearly every land – help us to seek the common ground that always exists between people of good will. We pray: **Help us do Your will, Lord.**

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” Open our eyes and our hearts, Lord, to do the work you have before us, to care for those with less than us, to say “I’m sorry,” to be the first to put our feet on the bridge of reconciliation, to act with kindness and justice. We pray: **Be with us, Lord.**

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” In times of loss– of relationships, of worldly possessions, of livelihoods, of health, of the people dear to us, even of hope – we pray for Your comfort. We ask for your protection of those in military service, especially Kevin DeBoissiere and Conner Warlow. Today we pray for those who are ill, for Fr. Ginnever, Lexi, Zeyneb, Denny, Samuel, Lucas, Shirley, Andy, Cynthia, Neal, Valentin, Kandi, Bradley, Rená, Catherine, Mary Ann, Caroline, Joan, Gina, Megan, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those we now name. We pray also for those who have died, especially Elsa Rivas Bray, Elsa Bray Kieffer, and those we now name. We ask your blessings for those for whom these days are truly hard. We pray: **Lord, be with us.**

Across the world, we pray for Your people in all lands, in all places, however we conceive of You. We welcome all visitors and newcomers here with us. In our diocese, we pray today especially for the congregations of Grace, New Market; St. James, Mount Airy; St. Paul’s, Point of Rocks; and Transfiguration, Braddock Heights. In our worldwide Anglican Communion, we pray today for the people in The Church of Pakistan (United). Together we pray: **Thank you, Lord.**

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” For all the many times of joy in our lives – for new birth, for rekindled love, for renewed hope, for the birthdays of those we love and the anniversaries of special occasions, for all that is good in our world, we thank You. Today we remember the birthdays of Mike, Eric, Rebecca, and the wedding anniversaries of Samuel & Victoria Herring and James & Nancy Schempp. Together we acclaim: **We praise You, Lord.**

All this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin | BCP 360

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 Anthem | Down to the River to Pray

arr. Sheldon Curry

Presentation 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 B | BCP 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

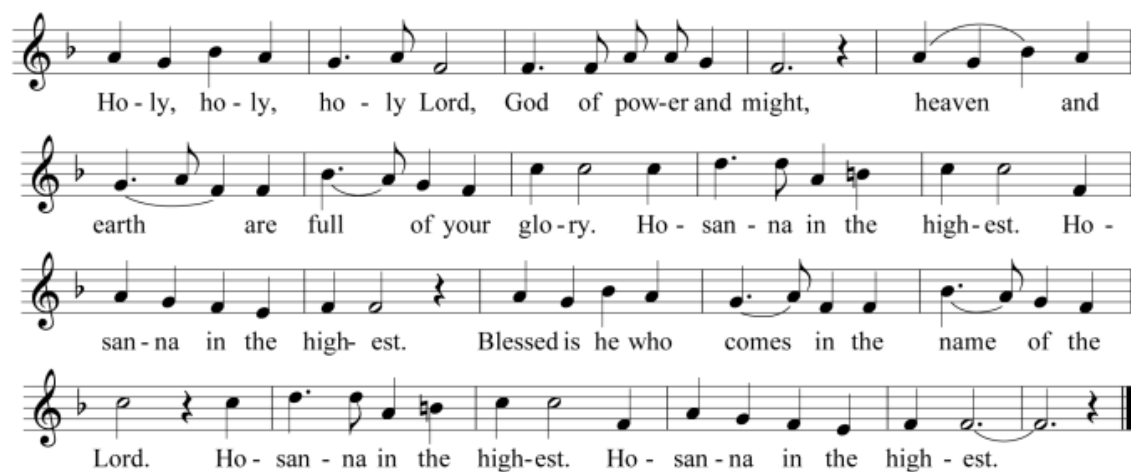
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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:



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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

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

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

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

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 | BCP 365

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;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem Hymn 324 (v. 2) | King of King

Picardy



Communion Anthem | Sign Me Up

Kevin Yancy and Jerome Metcalfe

Post-Communion Prayer | BCP 365

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 blesses the People, who respond **Amen.***

Closing Hymn | You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)

Michael W. Smith

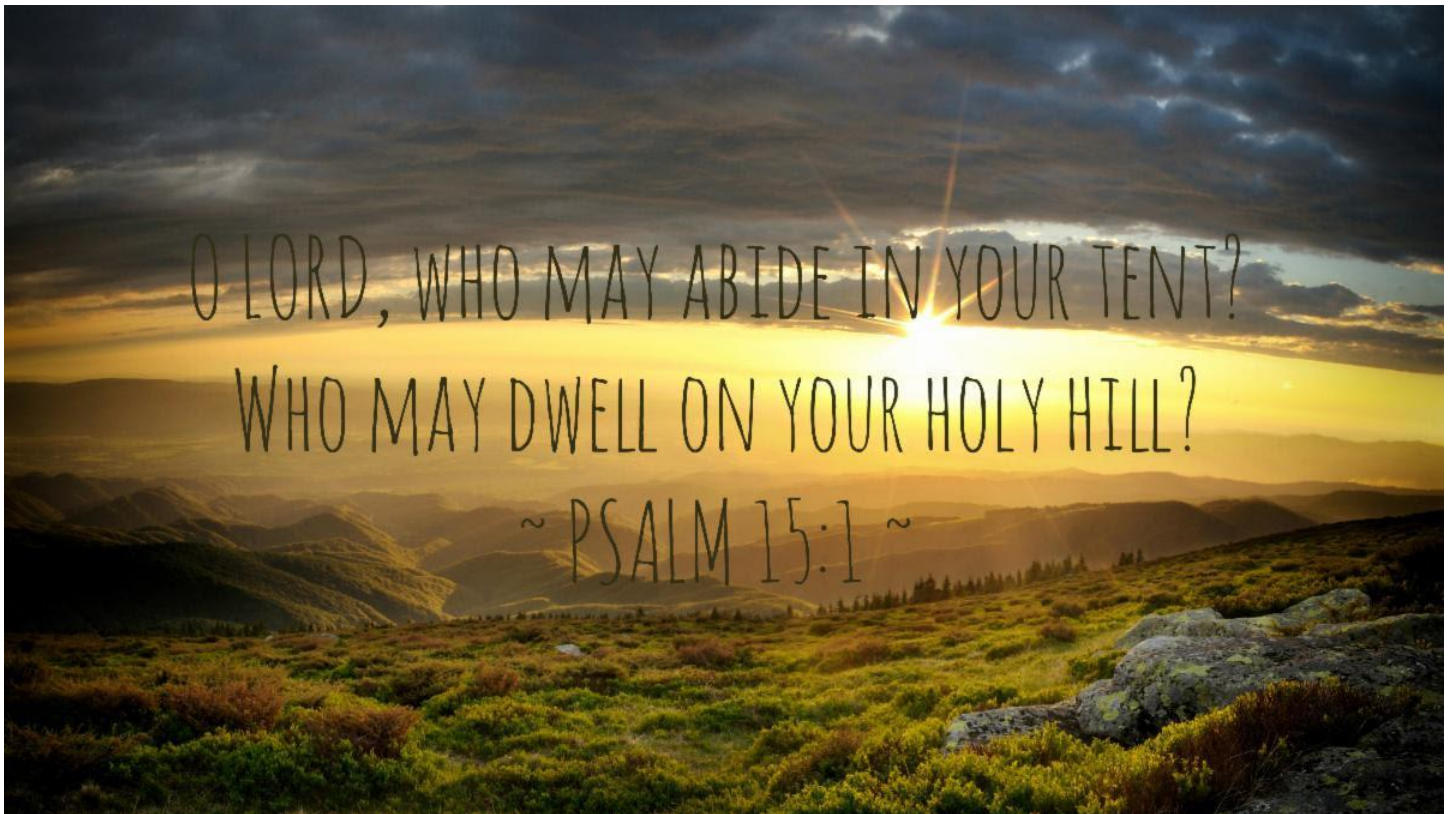
Musicians will lead and the congregation will echo.

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude |

*Today's altar flowers were dedicated by Jay and Carol Abbott
in celebration of their grandson Brian Charles Bucacink's birth.*



PARISH CALENDAR
JANUARY 29 TO FEBRUARY 4

Sunday, January 29

8:00 – 8:45 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 – 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Monday, January 30

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Zoom

Tuesday, January 31

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Japanese Play Group – Outside New Brick

Wednesday, February 1

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am	Take Off Pounds Sensibly – Parish Hall, lower level
6:00 – 8:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, February 2

8:00 – 8:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, February 3

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Christ Church Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, February 4

11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, upper level
2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting, Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

Sunday School

Youth Formation begins with breakfast around 8:30, followed by Family Worship and Sunday School. Every child is welcome, and you can find the details on [our website's Youth Formation page](#). Also on that page is a link to the Sunday School registration form, so please sign your children up so we can plan accordingly (use one form per child, please). If you have any questions, email Jennifer Atkins at sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org

Adult Formation

Sunday Circle gathers in Old Brick at 9:30 a.m. with a presentation titled *Exploring the Ministries of Bishops and Priests*. You can also join us virtually for this gathering, and find the [program notes](#) on our website's Adult Formation page; [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is **847 9910 4117**, and the Password is **AFSC**. Our Parenting Group gathers in the New Brick Vestry Room (lower level). Bible Study will meet in the Parish Hall Conference Room. There are several options, and you're welcome to join any of them any Sunday. [See our Adult Formation page on the CEC website for more information.](#)

The 2023 Pledge Envelopes Are Here!

The 2022 Christ Church pledge envelopes have arrived and are available for pickup now. They are located in the Narthex, but if you need to make other arrangements or have any questions, please [email the Church Office](#).

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special gathering on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link is [here](#), Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340** and Password is **Centering!**

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

C'mon, all you singers! Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9 p.m. and everyone is welcome to take part! [You can find links to the registration forms on our website's Music Ministry page](#). 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 choir! If you're interested, please speak with Larissa on Sunday or email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org.

CEC Book Club - Fridays

The CEC Book Club is back and gathering Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. We always enjoy having new people join our virtual gathering, so if you like curling up with an insightful read and discussing it with others, this is the time to join us! Just [email Ellen Hoke at **efboudreau1@gmail.com**](#) for details. Then simply log in to Zoom for an hour or so. The Zoom link is [here](#), Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366** and Password is **CECBooks**

First Wednesday Fellowship - February 1st

The next First Wednesday Fellowship will be on February 1st, and we hope you'll be with us as we learn about, and celebrate, the Chinese New Year, which in 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature a wonderful spread of Chinese food. After we eat, we'll make some traditional Chinese New Year decorations to celebrate Lunar New Year, an extra special time in Chinese culture, and play a variety of fun board games (bring your favorite!).

[Please RSVP here](#) and donate as you are able to assist in offsetting the cost of the meal. An average meal costs about \$15. and [you can use our online giving form](#) - just choose "Parish Life & Activities" from the FUND dropdown menu and write "FWF" in the MEMO line.

We are looking forward to a fun evening, and hope that you'll all join us!

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 2022 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts>. You can also sign up and reserve a slot 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. [Email the Church Office](#) with any questions.

Our Sunday Services Need Your Help

We are in need of more ushers, chalicists, and lectors for the 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services. You will serve on rotational schedules (not every week) and during select events. There are no age requirements or limits, and TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED, so please consider helping out!

- **Ushers:** welcome, seat, and direct parishioners during the service
- **Chalicists (Lay Eucharistic Minister):** assist the clergy in the distribution of the Eucharist
- **Lector (Lay Reader):** read aloud to the congregation throughout the year.

Please contact Yetti Lipede at ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Like Coffee? Let's Enjoy Some Together! You Can Help.

The 8:30 a.m. Old Brick Coffee Hour is in full swing (thank you!), but we really need people and ministries to help set up for the 9:30 a.m. gathering in New Brick's Elevator Room. This is an excellent opportunity for fellowship and fun, and a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners. You can work by yourself, in groups, or with another family. Perhaps a group or ministry can offer to host the occasional Coffee Hour, as well. All you need to do is provides snacks, brew the coffee, stay for the coffee hour, and help tidy up. Training will be provided. Questions? Please contact the church office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or 410-381-9365.

Christ Church Podcast - Later in 2023

In a recent *Gatherings*, Father Manny discussed the idea of creating a Christ Church Podcast, a homegrown, multimedia collaboration of our parish's many features, talents, and interests. That idea is gaining steam for a launch later this year, but we would love to involve some more people to help make this the best it can be. If you enjoy writing, are interested in researching the multilayered history of Christ Church, have an interest in audio production, like to shoot videos on your phone or camera, enjoy composing, singing, or playing music, have a particular topic you'd like to share with others, love to draw or paint... we can find a place for each of you! We're meeting again in two weeks (date and time TBD) and you're invited to join us to see how you can be an important part of this new venture. If you'd like more information or are interested in joining us, please speak with [Fr. Manny](#), [Ann Barnes](#), or email Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

WOCC January News

This February, we will participate in *Wear Red for Heart Health* awareness, and every year we submit photos of ourselves in red in acknowledgment of this important initiative. We have a few photos of you already, but need lots more! Please dress in your favorite red hat, shirt, sweater, dress, coat, or another red article, and send your photos in by this Friday, January 27th. Email them to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org and we'll assemble them into a collage for the website, Narthex display, and a February edition of *Gatherings*.

Other activities in the coming months will include a Labyrinth meditation walk, Robinson Nature Center walk, and Spring Tea, as well as an attempt to work a Toby's Dinner Theater evening into our plans. Look for details in upcoming news and information bulletins, and come and join us for these events. If you have other good ideas, share them with us! And be sure to join us for our February meeting on the 6th at 1:00 p.m. A link will be sent out soon. Please try to join us! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask one of the members or officers: Cathy Gold, president; Shahra Toth, VP; Cindy Read, secretary; Suzanne Ziobro, treasurer; Mary Vail, chaplain.

Pledge for 2023

At Christ Church, we are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who continually support our ministry of faithful service, and we pray that each of you will prayerfully consider your contribution to Christ Church for this calendar year. You can bring your pledge cards to church with you at any time, pick up and complete a pledge card in the Narthex, or [pledge online](#) (choose "Pledge for 2023" in the *FUND* dropdown menu). Thank you very much for your support of our vital common life.

Clock is Ticking as Amazon Smile Disappears as a Support for Charities

Many of the partner organizations that Christ Church supports – near and far – have relied on a revenue stream that will soon end. People who order online from Amazon have been able to designate a charity that benefits with each purchase. Now the program, called [AmazonSmile](#), will cease on Feb. 20, 2023.

On its website in [a Jan. 18 announcement](#), Amazon said: “In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.”

The eligible organizations have been receiving a contribution of .5% of every purchase on AmazonSmile’s site to the customer’s designated charity. It’s a small amount but volume matters, and the nonprofits who participate have told us it truly makes a difference.

If you are planning to make Amazon purchases, consider doing so between now and Feb. 20 to help the charitable partner that you had designated. The websites of several non-profit organizations that Christ Church supports are linked to AmazonSmile. These include:

[Bridges to Housing Stability](#), whose mission is “Solving Homelessness with Housing” in Howard County. This [link](#) takes you directly to its section on AmazonSmile.

Christian Care Foundation for Children with Disabilities, whose U.S. nonprofit organization, [CCD-USA](#), directs our support for physical therapists’ salaries. CCD helps “differently abled” children in Thailand live fulfilling lives. This [link](#) takes you directly to its section on AmazonSmile.

[Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC), which distributes food, diapers and essentials and offers programs to increase equity in the county. It’s plea to order before Amazon’s deadline was posted Jan. 24 on the [CCC Facebook Group](#).

[Community Action of Howard County](#), which provides early childhood education, weatherization and eviction prevention, and food aid through the Howard County Food Bank. This [link](#) takes you to its “Other Ways to Give” display. Look for the header “Shop for a Cause.”

[FISH of Howard County](#), which delivers food to neighbors in need and also helps with prescription costs, utility bills and other emergencies. This [link](#) takes you directly to its section on AmazonSmile.

[Somos Amigos Medical Missions](#), which collaborate with a rural community in the Dominican Republic to provide medical and dental care. This [link](#) takes you directly to its section on AmazonSmile.

CCC Plans a Resource Fair at Howard Community College - February 4

Workshops on topics ranging from financial literacy to health and wellness are planned during “Essential Resources Day” sponsored by CCC. Services offered will include legal information, a free expungement clinic, and free childcare during the event.

It will be held Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Duncan Hall at Howard Community College. Suggested parking is in Parking Lot A. Please spread the word.

(continued)

The Outreach Commission asks parishioners to continue supporting CCC, which updates its needs and volunteer opportunities on the **CCC Group on Facebook**. In general, please collect diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put them in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday. Leigh Smith has become our representative, taking parishioners’ donated items to a CCC site for distribution on Saturdays.

Exploring Prison Ministry - February 7

“Lord...when did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” (Matthew 25:37-39)

As our baptismal covenant calls us to serve those on the margins and seek justice for every beloved child of God, that includes those convicted of crimes and imprisoned—those we believe have harmed others in some way. Join us via Zoom on Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. to meet Reverend Sue Beck, pastor of the Community of St. Dysmas (CSD). CSD is comprised of the Lutheran congregations within the Maryland State Correctional System. Their call is to “share the transforming power of Christ’s love with persons incarcerated...and to support them upon their release.” Pastor Sue will talk about CSD’s work within the walls of four Maryland prisons and answer questions you may have about how you could engage in this important ministry. The Zoom details will be in upcoming communications, or you can email **info@christchurchcolumbia.org** if you're interested.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project

This important project is an initiative that's being taken by one of our own parishioners, Gavin Couch. Gavin explains: "Hello, my name is Gavin Couch and I am currently a life scout in Troop 874. I am working on my eagle project with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This is an organization that builds beds and provides bedding to children who were recently homeless, but now have a place to live and need beds and bedding. I am at the beginning of my project and am collecting monetary donations and twin-sized bed-in-a-bag sets. There is also a Venmo code for monetary donations and a link to an Amazon wishlist, should you like to purchase from there. If you would like these details or have any questions, you can see me at church or email me at **gbcouch24@gmail.com**. Thank You.

Save the Date: DreamBuilders Mandatory Meeting for Summer Mission Trip - March 4

If you are interested in joining DreamBuilders to repair homes in Kentucky in June, make sure you attend our **mandatory** meeting on Saturday, March 4th, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be at Temple Isaiah (12200 Scaggsville Rd., Fulton). We will have all the information you will need about the June trip, but if you have any questions before then, please see or **email Cathy Gold at cgold2000@aol.com**. It'll be a life-changing event, for you and for the people we're helping in Kentucky. Hope to see you there!

Donate Snacks, Crackers, and Cookies to FISH in Bin on our Breezeway

Organizers for **FISH of Howard County** are continuing to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill their shopping lists. The yellow bin is between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

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



The Deadline is Next Week...
Christ Church's Lenten Meditation Book Needs Your Submissions!

For 20 years, Christ Church has compiled a Lenten Meditation Book, distributed to our parishioners on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday. The LMB is created with love and designed to assist us all in times of quiet contemplation, by sharing our thoughts and preparing ourselves for rebirth and renewal at Easter. Our Communications Administrator posts these each weekday during Lent on our Christ Church website to share them with the world, along with uplifting musical selections on Saturdays.

To accomplish these goals, **we must have all your submissions in by next Sunday, February 5th** to put this publication together and to have it up on our website, which is viewed by thousands of individuals worldwide during Lent. We have about 15 of you submitted.... but there are many more of you out there, so help make this year's LMB a very special one by sending us your favorite meditation(s).

That means we have a 4-week timeframe to compose and submit your prayers, songs, stories, poems, readings, or personal reflections. We also include your favorite inspirational pieces by writers or theologians. You can submit these by name or anonymously - your choice. There are some copies of last year's LMB in the Narthex for you to take or examine as a guide for examples of submissions. You can also visit christchurchcolumbia.org/lenten-meditations and read last year's daily reflections. All contributors will be listed and acknowledged at the conclusion of the booklet. Submit by email to: efboudreau1@gmail.com , by text message to 301-452-7115, or place it in the Spiritual Life mailbox in the Church office. Questions: call Ellen Hoke at 301-452-7115.

Thank you ever so much!



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Denisa Abdallah • Jane Adams • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Beth Johnson • Sara Kirkpatrick

Andrea Leeman • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Alfred Titus-Glover