

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

The Transfiguration

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, August 6, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Welcome Home!

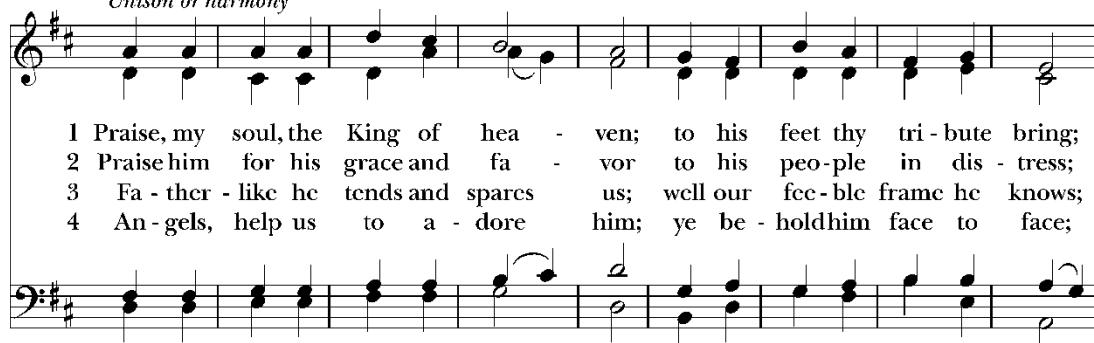
Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone 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!

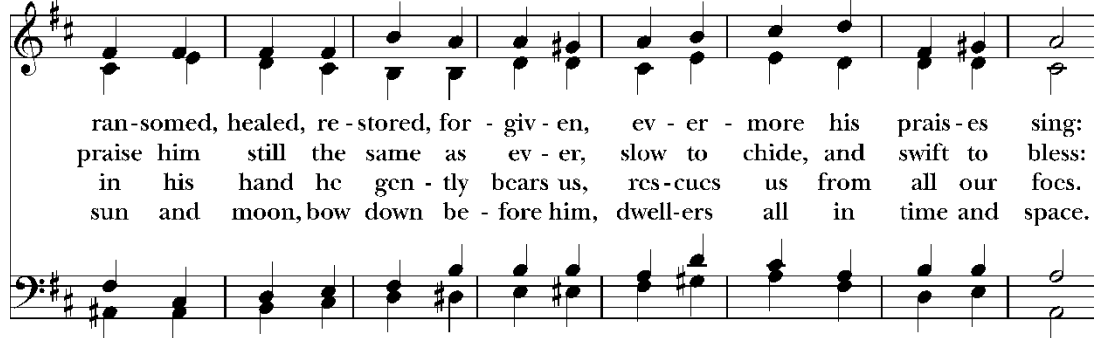
Opening Hymn 410 | Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Lauda anima

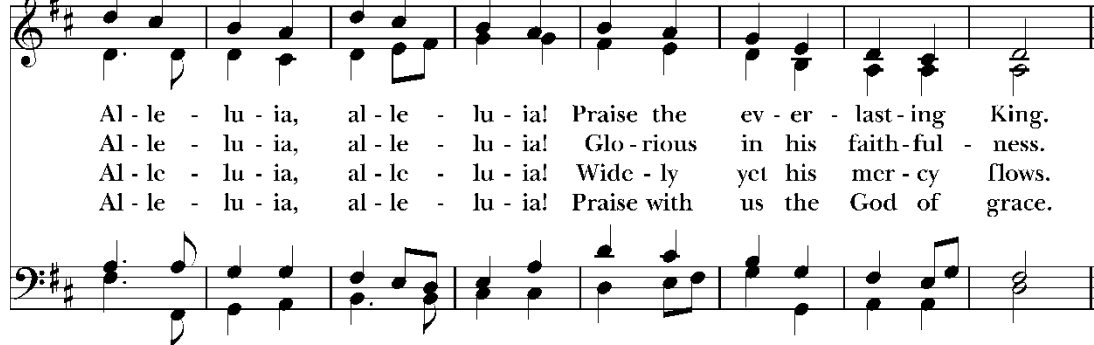
Unison or harmony



1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;
 3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;

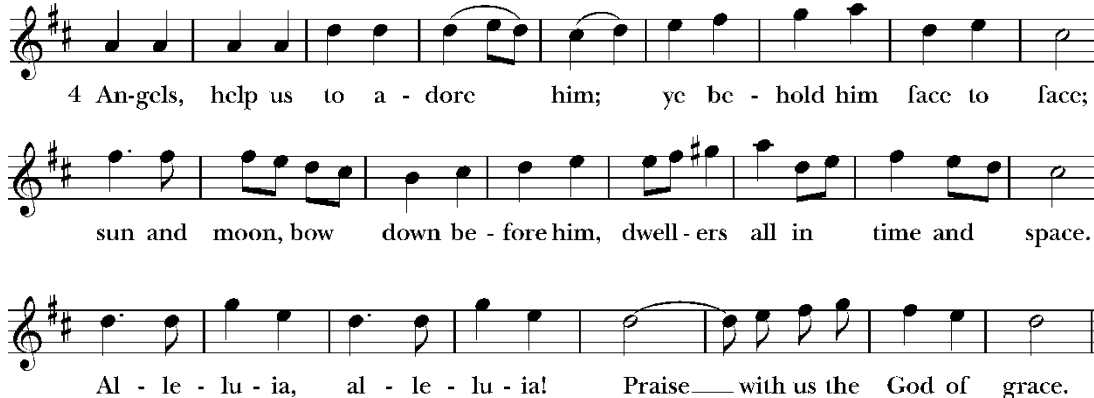


ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing;
 praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:
 in his hand he gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Descant for use with unison singing



4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

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

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
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Exodus 34:29-35 |

Reader: A Reading from Exodus.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 99 | *Dominus regnavit*

[The LORD is King;
let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.

The LORD is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.

Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.

"O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."]

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among his priests,
 and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; *
**you were a God who forgave them,
 yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
 and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

A Reading from 2 Peter 1:13-21 |

Reader: A Reading from 2 Peter.

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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 439 | What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

Unison

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
 3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and
 won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll
 caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
 is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing
 soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

The Gospel | Luke 9:28-36

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

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

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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 Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

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 |

Almighty God, hear the prayers of Your people worshipping together in person and online here at Christ Church.

Lord, in the readings we have heard today, we learn that when someone has a big encounter with You, they are changed. Visibly. In ways that others, and maybe even they, do not understand. But changed and strengthened so they can go out to do the work you have for them to do. Together we pray. Change **us, Lord**.

We pray for Your people here in our community, in our nation, and across our world who are struggling, who need help, who need safety, who need food or shelter, who desperately need to know they are seen and loved and cared for. Help us be Your hands of help for them. Together we pray. Help **us help others, Lord**.

We pray for every person across the world who is suffering from extreme heat, war, disaster, poverty, violence. Together we pray, **Be with them, Lord**.

We pray for those we love who are ill or dying or who for any reason need our prayers and to feel Your presence. In our parish family, we pray especially for Judy, Pamela, David, Dennis, Dave, Fran, Doris, Elizabeth, Patricia, Emily, Beth, Kellene, Richard, Shirley, Louise, Danny, Cindy, Roberta, Francis, Fr. Ginnever, Samuel, Catherine, Caroline, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those we each name in our hearts or aloud. We ask the Lord's protection for all those serving in the military and in harm's way, especially Kevin DeBossiere and Conner Warlow. We pray for those we love who have died, especially Laurie Benner, Nana Yahan Oppong, and those we now name. May their memory be a blessing. Together we pray, **May Your peace be with them, Lord.**

We pray for and give thanks for our diocese and parish, for its clergy and lay leaders, for our congregation, for those here visiting us, and those seeking a new church home. We pray for our fellow Christians in the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially today for the people in the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo. We pray for our fellow parishes in the Diocese of Maryland, especially for Ascension, Westminster; Good Shepherd, Towson; and Holy Comforter, Lutherville. Together we pray. Unite **us in Your service, Lord.**

We give thanks for all the blessings in our lives, especially this week for the birthdays of Allison, Bill, Chuck, Paul, Carol & Marilyn, the wedding anniversaries of Krista & Michael McCormick, and the baptismal anniversaries of Ginger & Rachelle. Together we pray. Thank **you for joy, Lord.**

Lord, in today's reading from Peter's letter written more than one thousand years ago to another community of Christians, we heard these words: "So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." Almighty God, we pray that Your morning star will rise in our hearts this day and always. **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 LEVAS 72 | Just a Closer Walk with Thee

American Folk Song

1. I am weak but thou art strong; _____
 2. Through this world of toil and snares, _____
 3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, _____

Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, _____

1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; _____ I'll be sat - is - fied as
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? _____ Who with me my bur - den
 3. Time for me will be no more; _____ Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

Refrain: Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, _____ Dai - ly walk - ing close to

D.C. for Refrain

1. long _____ As I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 2. shares? _____ None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 3. o'er _____ To Thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Refrain: thee, _____ Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Please scan to give.



The people stand as able.

**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.

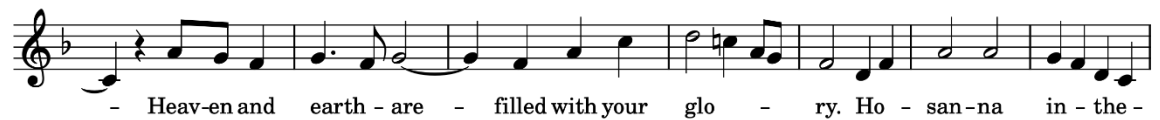
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **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 | 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;

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

organ

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.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 146 | Break Thou the Bread of Life

Mary A. Lathbury/William F. Sherwin

1. Break thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,
 2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,
 3. Teach me to live, dear Lord, On - ly for thee,

1. As thou didst break the loaves Be - side the sea;
 2. As thou didst bless the bread By Gal - i - lee;
 3. As thy dis - ci - ples lived in Gal - i - lee;

1. Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord;
 2. Then shall all bond - age cease, All fet - ters fall,
 3. Then, all my strug - gles o'er, Then, vic - t'ry won,

1. My spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing word!
 2. And I shall find my peace, My all in all.
 3. I shall be - hold thee, Lord, The liv - ing one.

The people stand as able.

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.***

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach — us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude | Verset X, 'In the Glory of the Invalides'

Marcel Dupre
 Ola Oladipupo, organ

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Sonni Aribiah

Ushers: Michon Semon, Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Chalicerist: Sonni Aribiah

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Kathy Lyon

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, JB Hanson, Bete Dagne, Cherry Williams, Alex Amponsah

Acolytes and Crucifer:

Chalicerist: Kathy Lyon

Altar Guild

Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett, Pam Foreman

PARISH CALENDAR

AUGUST 6 – AUGUST 12

Sunday, August 6

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick, upper level
9:00 am	Cycling for Health and Fellowship
10:30 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, August 7

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

Tuesday, August 8

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 9:30 pm	Building and Grounds Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, August 9

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

Thursday, August 10

8:00 – 8:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, August 11

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, August 12

9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Youth Room Painting/Decorating – Parish Hall, lower 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 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.

Cycling for Health and Fellowship - Sunday Mornings

How about joining us for some group cycling before or after church on Sundays? Diane Phillips LaGuerre and Kevin Osborn are organizing invigorating cycling trips that depart from CEC and take advantage of bike lanes and trails around Columbia. There are some beautiful lakes and paved trails right outside our backyard and is a great way to see parts of our community from a different perspective. We always go at a pace that suits everyone in our group, with the goal of returning to Christ Church in time for the 10:30 service. These trips will occur every week, weather permitting. Please speak with or email Diane or Kevin at cycling@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Join Our Vestry this Autumn

Nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun. This year, there are four (4) slots open for election, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and are a giving member of record to Christ Episcopal Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to guide us, so we hope you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, October 16th. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org and they will let you know what's needed for this process. Thank you for your consideration.

Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

Father Manny - and last week, Vestry member Tim Beaty - shared with us the many challenges that have plagued the Rector's Discretionary Fund. The RDF typically funds - among other things - rental assistance, gas and electric bill aid, financial support, mortgage assistance, and transportation needs. Since the beginning of the pandemic and our advent of online giving, we have seen a significant drop in income; however, the needs of those in our community have not subsided. There are real people with real needs that we support on a consistent basis, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF in order for us to help our neighbors. **Visit our main Online Giving Form** and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help. Whether large or small, we thank you very much for your support of this vital fund.

Centering Prayer - August 7

Gather with us on Mondays in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. for Centering Prayer, a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God. You can also take part virtually from wherever you are. The Zoom link is **here**, the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340**, and the Password is **Centering!** For more info, email Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com.

We Need Office Assistance... Can You Help? - August 7-11

Aisha will be on vacation next week, and we would like to keep the office open in case anyone needs help. Can you assist us for a few hours, or for a day? We've created a sign-up page for those willing to help answer the phone and take messages, unlock and open doors for those using the facilities and ensure that someone is present on campus in

the event of an emergency. Don't worry - we'll leave detailed instructions on how to operate the phone system and other equipment, and you're more than welcome to email the Church office with any questions you might have. **If you're interested, please check the sign-up sheet and volunteer to take any time slot(s) available.** Thank you.

Youth Room Redecoration - August 12

With a new program year around the bend, we are soon going to gather and freshen up the Youth meeting rooms! We need youth and/or parents to volunteer to help with painting the space, so please join us on Saturday, August 12th from 9-11 a.m. Many hands make light work! **Please sign up here.** And we want to thank George Toth, who volunteered to put fenestration onto the doors to the Youth meeting rooms. Thanks, George!

Calling ALL Ministry Leaders! - August 13

Ministry and Group Leaders, please contact Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org and provide him with an updated paragraph or two about your ministry for the 2023 ministry trifold and main booklet. These will be displayed at the upcoming Parish Festival & Ministry Fair (more info below) and we want every element of Christ Church represented, so don't miss out! If you had a trifold in a previous year and would like a copy, or if you want to create one from scratch, tell Chris and he will point you in the right direction. Remember, this is a great way of inspiring people to join a ministry or group while helping grow Christ Church as a whole. All photos and text descriptions must be received no later than Sunday, August 13th. Thank you!

Youth, Help Us Unite & Serve - August 16

We need many hands to pack school supplies for students in need at Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS), an important part of Christ Church's Outreach Ministry. Chaplain Kiona is calling all youth to join this effort on Wednesday, August 16th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Snacks and drinks will be provided, so come and help out! You can speak with Kiona on Sunday or email her at kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Sunday School Teacher Training - August 20

The CEC Sunday School is still looking for people to help out with our fall Sunday School curriculum. If interested, join us for a meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service on August 20th. If you would like more info, please speak with Jennifer Atkins, Kiona, or Father Manny at church.

Christ Church's Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - August 27

The Annual Christ Church Parish Festival and Ministry Fair are back this year! There's only one service that day - Sunday, August 27th - so we'll begin with Holy Eucharist in New Brick at 10 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! Every Christ Church ministry will have tables set up around the campus with information, and you can speak with their members and learn more about how they contribute to our common life - and how you can, too.

WOCC September Meeting - September 5

Join the WOCC for our first meeting for the second half of 2023 on Tuesday, September 5th at 1:00 p.m. It will be a hybrid event, so you're welcome to gather with us in New Brick or on Zoom. The details will be available later this summer. The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned for this year. Come join us for these events! Speak to any WOCC member, or email us at WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Reserve Your Space for the Annual Flea Market and Crafts Fair - September 16

Soon, it'll be time for that wonderful annual event, the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. It's taking place on Saturday, September 16th (rain date 9/23) and you can now reserve your space(s) - grab one for \$15., two for \$25., three for \$35., or four spaces for \$45. If you have rented space in the past, you should have

recently received a registration form. We also have forms available in the Narthex, or you can download a copy on our website at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market.

To pay for your reservation, you can use Realm - simply use this link to get to it: <https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/give/fleamarket>. You can also pay by cash or check, as in years past. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at the WOCC email address above. We will also be looking for volunteers, crafts, bakers, and books! It's the WOCC's biggest fundraiser of the year, and proceeds are used to help Christ Church. We're getting organized for this big event, so stay tuned for more information and opportunities to participate. The more people that take part, the more successful this important event can turn out to be!

CEC Health and Wellness Fair - September 30

The Christ Church Health Ministry is creating a Community Health and Wellness Fair for Saturday, September 30, on the Christ Church campus. Many health-related tables, booths, and presentations will be available, and everyone's invited to take part. Stay tuned for more information.

Christ Church's Annual Auction - November 4

And so, the countdown begins... in three months, we will hold Christ Church's 34th Annual Auction, and we'll host both an online and in-person, live auction again this year. Start thinking about great gifts and ideas that you can donate in order to help raise funds to support our common life, and keep watching this space as we gear up for online bidding during the week leading up to a fun-filled evening on Saturday, November 4th! If you have any questions, please email auction@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

We are gathering and planning for Christ Church's 300th year, but are always looking for more input, so join us! This celebration is such an important milestone for our church, and we want participation and ideas from as many of us 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 Father Manny or email 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Communion to You

In an effort to connect more directly with those of you who are local and worship virtually, Christ Church offers Communion to You, an opportunity to have altar gifts delivered to you or made available for pickup at the Church Office. If you want more information, [please complete this form](#) or [email](#) the Church Office.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2023 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltarflowers>. 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.

Columbia Community Care Gains Funds and Recognition at an Orioles Game; Continues to Recruit Volunteers and Request Baby Care Items

The excitement was about more than the Baltimore Orioles beating the New York Yankees on Sunday night. An Oakland Mills High School (OMHS) teacher was honored as a Birdland Community Hero. With the award came a \$5,000 donation to the charity of her choice: [Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC).

An image of OMHS Spanish teacher Ashleigh Elizabeth Magrin and the big check, made out to Columbia Community Care, flashed on the scoreboard in a fifth-inning ceremony. She is lead organizer of the OMHS Food Pantry, where Magrin is pictured going “above and beyond to serve her community” as the latest hero on the Orioles’ **Birdland Community Heroes page**. The OMHS pantry operates year-round to serve about 80 families a month. “It’s truly a wonderful community effort that Ashleigh Elizabeth keeps going strong,” posted CCC Director of Operations Meg Feroli on the **CCC Facebook Group**.

CCC recently received another source of funds that came with metro-wide recognition of its impact. A July 24 **article in the Howard County Times** reported that CCC was among six county recipients of grants from **United Way of Central Maryland**.

Christ Church supports CCC in various ways, including collecting baby supplies and recruiting volunteers. To sign up for tasks at the pantry, the garden, making home deliveries, or staffing the Saturday distribution sites, go to the **“I Can Help” portion of its website**. Please keep collecting baby wipes and diapers, in addition to sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put them in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

Enjoy a 3-minute Performance by the Sabina Children’s Choir or Watch the Entire Zoom Recap to Explore the Work of Friends of Sabina in Uganda

Don’t miss the chance to see and hear the musical selection performed expressly for members of Christ Church by the children’s choir of Sabina Boarding Primary School. Despite a time difference that kept the choir assembled until late in the evening in Sanje, Uganda, the students performed flawlessly during a Zoom session on July 23. They sang “Sanctus-Latin,” which had been part of their prize-winning repertoire during a regional competition.

You’ll find the performance on **“An Incredibly Heartwarming Zoom Recap with Friends of Sabina”** on the Christ Church website or posted as **FOS Choir July 23, 2023** on our YouTube channel. “The children’s choir is lovely; we enjoy listening to them on campus,” commented Ann Marie Davis, a leader of **Friends of Sabina** (FOS) who is in Uganda and joined Zoom along with leader Maria White. Both expressed gratitude for parishioners’ long-term assistance and the recent outpouring. Part of the Zoom was a photo collage of nine currently sponsored students (see photos).

In an uplifting response to the July 23 event, parishioners stepped forward to sponsor two more: Roger, 10, and Phionah, 15. You’ll find a photo collage of children who were first matched in 2020, when they were ages 8 to 15, on the **FOS page** of the Christ Church website. Several sponsors and students enjoyed chatting together at the end of the hybrid Zoom session. The youngsters come from families who otherwise cannot afford their schooling.

Three of the sponsored boys were recently instructed in skills needed to grow coffee, described in a section of **the Zoom recap** at approximately **39 minutes, 18 seconds into the video clip**. FOS is looking to raise funds to grow coffee as part of its sustainability initiatives.

Leaders also continue to seek parishioners who will provide teacher sponsorships, by committing \$150 a month individually or by partnering with others to sponsor teachers. The need to retain talent and keep classroom sizes down is discussed at approximately 44 minutes and 50 seconds into the video clip. For information on teacher sponsorships, please email Christ Church Outreach at **outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Christ Church established Sabina’s library and continues its support through the Outreach Commission. That includes paying the salary of librarian Richard Tumusiime, who is featured at approximately 50 minutes and 48 seconds into

the video clip. He is commended by The Rev. Emmanuel Mercer in remarks at approximately 1 hour, and 3 minutes into the video clip. FOS completed one phase of infrastructure improvements and plans to resume its WASH campaign to modernize sanitation. The ongoing fundraising effort is discussed at approximately 58 minutes, 06 seconds into the video clip.

Since Christ Church became a supporter of Sabina more than a decade ago, several parishioners have traveled there. The Alperns and the Hokes saw their sponsored students at that time, and the Aribiahs renewed ties going back to Teddy's childhood. During the Zoom, teenage students at Sabina enjoyed talking with Teddy and Sonni and especially to Jonah Aribiah about being in high school in the United States.

Help Pack the LEMS Supplies - August 16

Please join us to pack the supplies in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, August 16th at 9:00 a.m. The school will distribute the supplies the week of August 21st, so we also will need your help delivering the supplies that week. Strong arms and larger vehicles are helpful.

If you can't help us that day, there are other ways to assist. One measure of whether a student lives in a family that is financially challenged is if they meet the federal guidelines for free and reduced meals (FARMS). In Howard County overall, about 14% of students qualify for free and reduced meals. However, at LEMS over 48.5% of LEMS students qualify for FARMS, the highest percentage amongst the middle schools in the county.

Contributions can be made via check, online, or via text. If you'd like to write a check, please make sure you indicate "LEMS School Supplies" on the memo line. If you'd like to give online, please also write "School Supplies" in the Memo line. If you have questions about our LEMS partnership or would like to help on August 16th, please contact Cathy Whittaker (catharinewhittaker@gmail.com) or Mary Vail (mevail@verizon.net). Thank you for your support!

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

Organizers for **FISH of Howard County** continue to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill their shopping lists. Please put items in a basket that has been returned to the altar. Or drop them in the yellow bin on the breezeway 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.



Unseen Tears

Two weeks ago, Mike, our Seminarian Associate, shared with us the incredible ministry that he begun at Vantage Point - an assisted living facility here in Columbia. Similar to the paths of God that aren't always self-revealing, the opportunity for new ministry opened up for Mike, and he took the ball and ran with it. I am extremely thankful



for the gift of this ministry, and the many people who are now involved in it. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 3 that ***I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*** God always gives the increase because any one of us can plant, and any one of us can water - you can be either Paul or Apollos.

I had the opportunity of worshipping with the Vantage Point community this past Sunday. Mike reminded me that the sermon is to last between 5-7 minutes. My question was, "How am I going to make this happen?" I ended up preaching for about ten minutes but according to Mike, no one complained about going over the suggested time.

On my way home after the worship, I met a woman who happened to be a Vantage Point resident. She stopped me and told me a story about how she became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. According to her, when they first moved to Columbia with their two daughters, they wanted a place where they could worship and where their children could be nurtured. They decided to visit the churches in Columbia and then make a choice as to which church they would worship.

The first church they visited was The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. After worship, the mother and father asked their daughters what they thought about the church. Their simple response was, "We love this church very much." Based on their response, they decided to remain at that church. She concluded her thoughts with these words from Isaiah: ***And a child shall lead them.*** These adults credit their children for leading them on this particular journey.

I write about the unseen tears today because I'd like to contrast this story with an experience I had this past Tuesday. The buzzer to the church office rang, and when I answered it, a lady with a sweet voice responded that she had come by to see if she could get some gift cards for food.

I buzzed her into the building. She came upstairs and walked into my office. Behind her was a sweet, beautiful girl who appeared to be about 8 or 9 years old. The mother narrated her story about her apartment recently catching fire and the difficulty she has had in getting a new apartment in Columbia. She drives for Uber Eats as employment because she can make deliveries while her daughter rides with her. All she needed was a gift card to buy some food for herself and her daughter.

Sometimes, these stories hit me so hard!!

I wonder how many children would be able to stand hearing their mother describe why they are in need. I wonder how many children would be able to hear their mother narrate to a stranger why she needs a gift card to feed her. I wonder how many children would be able to wear a smiling face while their mother shares the painful details of their life. I wonder how many children would be able to endure seeing their mother and themselves in such a vulnerable situation. I could believe the mother's story because the little girl was standing by her.

Remember - it is now summer. Children are on vacation, traveling, going from one camp to the other. It is likely that some of their friends may be home playing with their peers, traveling, or on vacation.

(continued)

But not this little girl - she was wearing a smile on her face. But I wonder what was behind her smile. I wonder about the unseen tears she's shed because she isn't in a position to do some of the things that kids her age are doing - not for lack of interest, but for lack of resources.

I do not question her smile. But I am inclined to believe that behind that smile were tears of a young girl whose only wish is to see her mother do well, to see food on her table, to have a place to call home, and to be able to enjoy summer, like her peers.

It breaks my heart whenever I come face-to-face with victims of a system that often fails those who are most vulnerable - and this is an almost daily occurrence. It breaks my heart when human vulnerability is laid so bare and raw. More than that, it breaks my heart when I feel helpless in meeting the needs of those most in need of our support and help. I wish I had asked for her phone number so I could stay in touch and offer the best support.

I have been thinking about the story of the two girls who led the way and helped their family choose a church, and thinking about the girl who was out with her mother, soliciting help for food. Two contrasting pictures, but both capture the human circumstance in a way that draws us into the lives of these young girls - not to judge their circumstances, but to examine for ourselves how we can create a society where children lead the way with joy, and not one where children watch the system fail them and their loved ones.

I had no way of seeing the tears of the young girl, they were buried deep within her. Thank God that each of us can be either Paul or Apollos, for we all possess the heart and gift to dry those unseen tears.

The good news is that the tears don't have to be visible for you to see them.

Manny+

CHRIST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

We want to thank YOU.

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 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 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**

**Thank you very much for your support
of our vital common life.**



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 Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Chaplain Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

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

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

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