

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sunday, March 10, 2024 | 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!

Prelude |

Opening Hymn 685 | Rock of Ages

Toplady

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

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

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

Opening Acclamation |

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;
People: **His mercy endureth forever.**

The Collect for Purity |

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Numbers 21:4-9 |

Reader: A reading from Numbers.

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22 | *Confitemini Domino*



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is ¹ good, |
and his mercy endures for- ¹ ever. | |

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed pro- ¹ claim |
that he redeemed them from the hand of the ¹ foe. | |

He gathered them out of the ¹ lands; |
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the ¹ south. | |

Some were fools and took to rebellious ¹ ways; |
they were afflicted because of their ¹ sins. | |

They abhorred all manner of ¹ food |
and drew near to death's ¹ door. | |

Then they cried to the Lord in their ¹ trouble, |
and he delivered them from their dis- ¹ tress. | |

He sent forth his word and healed ¹ them |
and saved them from the ¹ grave. | |

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his ¹ mercy |
and the wonders he does for his ¹ children. | |

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanks- ¹ giving |
and tell of his acts with shouts of ¹ joy. | |

A Reading from Ephesians 2:1-10 |

Reader: A reading from The Epistle to the Ephesians.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn 439 | What Wondrous Love Is This

American folk hymn

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.

A Reading from John 3:14-21 |

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

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,

The first system of the hymn is written in treble and bass staves. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It begins with a measure rest for 5 measures. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Optional Ending
9 For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

The third system is marked as an 'Optional Ending' and begins with a measure rest for 9 measures. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are written below the notes.

13 mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. It begins with a measure rest for 13 measures. The lyrics are written below the notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

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

Sermon | Rebecca Warlow, *Postulant for the Diaconate*

The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed |

All: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead:
and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Intervessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene and Carrie, our Diocesan Bishops; Emmanuel, our Rector; Denise, our Deacon; Kiona, our Youth Minister; Mike, our Seminarian Associate; and Rebecca, our Deacon postulant.; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joseph, our President: Wes, our Governor; and Calvin, our County Executive; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Marilyn, Dickson, Carolyn, Calvin, Pamela, Lexi, Kim, Tim, Karen, Jim, Doug, Mary Ann, Barbara, Sherry, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred, and Nell, and those who care for them. We also pray for those serving in the military, especially Kofi Abdallah and Conner Warlow and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

Intervessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Nana Banyin Arbuah, Farris Forsythe, and Alfreda Baran, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People: Amen.

Confession of Sin |

Deacon: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

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, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

Welcome and Announcements |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem | Share With the Hungry Your Bread

Carol Muehlig
Greta Barnes, *flute*

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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.

People:

It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth -

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant:

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Celebrant:

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer |

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

The Breaking of the Bread |

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer of Humble Access |

All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eyes at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, thy sha-dow for my a - bid - ing place;



the sha - dow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ve - ry dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no o - ther sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in the wil - der-ness, a rest up - on the way,
 and from my smit - ten heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let my pride go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
 the — won - ders of re - deem - ing love, and — my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my — sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my — glo - ry all the cross.

Please stand as able.

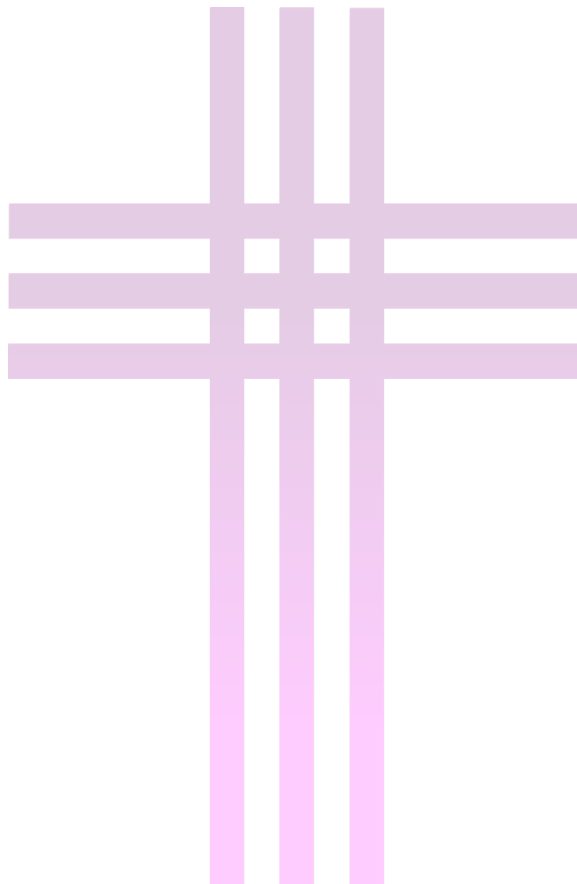
Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God,
we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us,
in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us;
and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son,
the blessed company of all faithful people;
and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.
And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father,
so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing |

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



1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as
 fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound, to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near, and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

The Dismissal |

*The Deacon dismisses the People, who respond:****Thanks be to God!****(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)*

Postlude |

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Ronald Baran

Usher: Diane Phillips LaGuerre

Chalicer:

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Cheryl Lucente

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah,
Hope & Eva Oladipupo

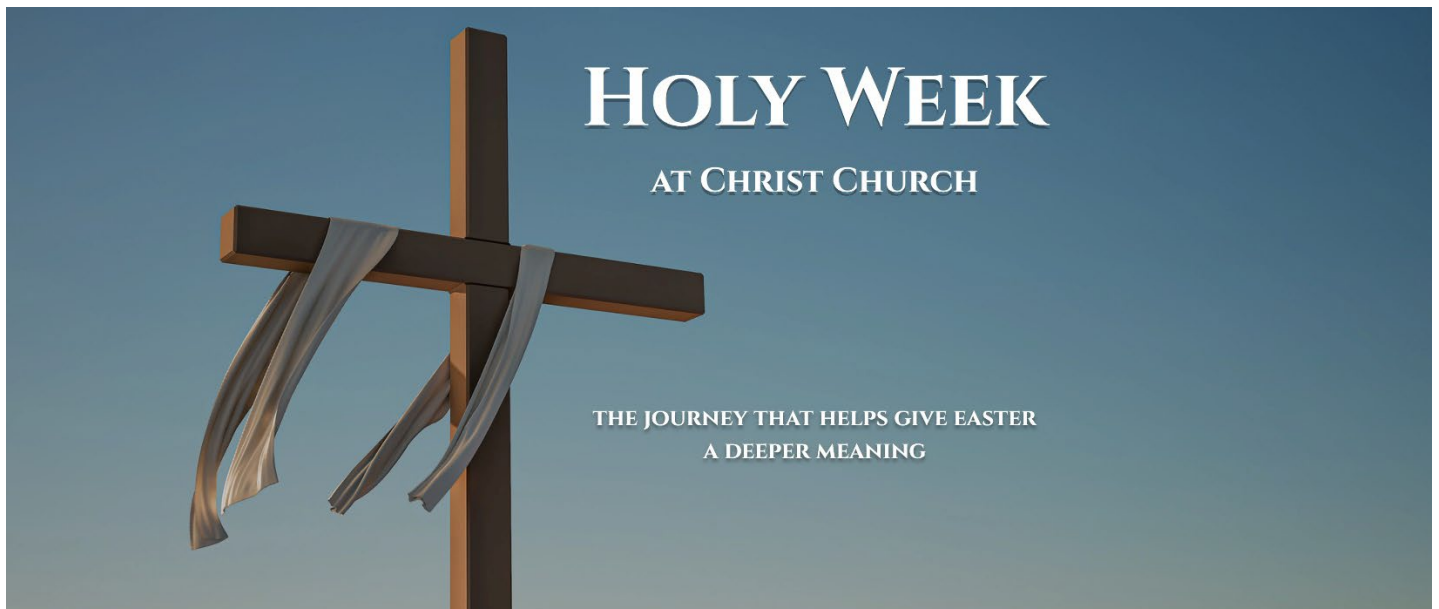
Acolytes & Crucifer:

Chalicer: Cheryl Lucente & Ivy Amonsah

6:00 p.m. Service

Pam Pruitt

Altar Guild: Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett



View Our Holy Week Schedule

www.christchurchcolumbia.org/holy-week

From earliest times, Christians have observed the week before Easter as a time of special devotion. It is a time when we gather together as a community of faith to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, to stand with him before his accusers, to walk to Golgotha, and to stand at the foot of his cross. Finally, on Easter Sunday, we will joyously celebrate the resurrection of Christ, lifting our voices in praise of the hope that is ours and the world's.

The heart of Holy Week observance is the three holy days, or Triduum, of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, and Christ Church has services on each of these days. We also have Easter Vigil, Confirmation, and Baptism on Holy Saturday and three worship services on Easter Sunday. We hope you'll join us for all of these.

PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 10 TO MARCH 16

Sunday, March 10

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 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 & Zoom
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
1:15 – 5:30 pm	Sundays at Three Concert – New Brick, upper level
1:30 – 4:30 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference room
2:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Taizé Vespers – New Brick, upper level

Monday, March 11

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:45 pm	Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off
3:15 pm	Grassroots Drop-off
7:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 pm	300 yr Events Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:30 pm	Outreach Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm	Columbia Conjurers – Parish Hall, lower level

Tuesday, March 12

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Boy Scout Event – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:30 pm	Building and Grounds Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, March 13

10:00 – 12:00 pm	Piano Recording – New Brick, upper level
10:00 – 11:00 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Refugee Leadership Meeting – Zoom
6:30 pm	Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, lower level
6:30 pm	Youth Lenten Group – Old Brick
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, March 14

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, March 15

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 10:00 pm	Event Setup – New Brick, lower level
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, March 16

8:30 am – 2:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, upper level
9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Building and Grounds work day
9:30 am -	Men of Christ Church Breakfast
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lumen Christi Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
4:00 – 11:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Lenten Taizé Vespers - Sunday Evening

Christ Church offers a beautiful, hour-long service of contemplative prayer and music on Sunday evenings. Parishioners offer poems, readings, and a homily that perfectly fits the season and allows us to reflect on God's love and presence in our lives, offer prayer for ourselves and others, and share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way. Join us in the New Brick Sanctuary for this very special worship. And be sure to read more from Larissa further down in the "Music Ministry" section of this email.

Easter Altar Flowers and Gifts

Easter Sunday is a time that we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord. If you would like to present Altar gifts this Easter, you can find our online Easter Offering form at <https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/-/form/give/lenteaster>. Be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the *MEMO* line. There are also envelopes in the Narthex and the rear of Old Brick. You can also drop your donation in the plate on Sunday or at the Church Office during the week; include the same dedication information on the *MEMO* line of a check, please. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Lent and Holy Week at Christ Church

Our website's **Lent at Christ Church** page details our worship, formation, and fellowship gatherings throughout the season. **Daily Meditations** are published each weekday morning, and an inspirational song each Saturday. This year, our website also has a **Daily Office page** that provides links to readings for each day. And now, you can find all of Christ Church's Holy Week details at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/holy-week

Centering Prayer - Monday Evening

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that helps us be present and open to God. The daily practice of this prayer could lead to a more intimate union with God and a more powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Join us in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. this Monday. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **875 9496 3596** and the Passcode is **Centering!**

Bible Study and Lunch - Wednesday Morning

Christ Church's Bible Study meets each Wednesday morning in the Conference Room of the Parish House, explore the Lectionary readings for that Sunday, and then have lunch together at a local restaurant. Wednesday Bible Study begins at 10:00 a.m. and is led by the Christ Church clergy and/or postulants.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series

Christ Church's Wednesday Evening Lenten Series, one of the most cherished traditions of our Lenten season, continues next Wednesday evening at 6:30 with a communal meal sponsored by the Christ Church Vestry and is followed by a presentation by the Reverend Barbara Seras. This series offers insightful seminars on our theme for this year, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*.

Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursday

On Thursdays, join us for midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick, with readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to reflect, pray, and participate in a service in our beautiful, historic chapel - the oldest building of worship still in regular use in Howard County.

Christ Church Choir - Thursday Evening

Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick and everyone is welcome to take part. No matter if you're a novice singer or a seasoned musician, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs. If you're interested, please email Larissa at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

Beautify the Church for Easter - March 16

Join us on Saturday, March 16th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help us get the church ready for Easter. Just bring your water bottle, work gloves, and your family/friends. We'll have indoor and outdoor chores as we prepare for Easter and the Bishop's visit. There are chores for all skill levels (even young kids). RSVP to Jan DeBoissiere at bng@christchurchcolumbia.org. RSVP is not required - you're welcome to just show up and help if you can. Lunch will be provided.

MOCC Breakfast - March 16

Next Saturday, we'll have our monthly Saturday breakfast at IHOP at 9:30 a.m., and EVERYONE is welcome to join us! We also have our current *Random Act of Kindness* activity - creating gift bags for new fathers at Howard County General Hospital. You can find the list of items still needed on our website's February blog post - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/mocc-February-news. If you would like to help or have any questions, please email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org

First Wednesday Fellowship Meeting - March 18

In May, FWF returns and we will hold two Zoom planning meetings in March and April to get things started. Everyone is welcome to join us for the first meeting on Monday, March 18 at 7 p.m. and we hope you do - we'd love ideas and thoughts from everyone so we can make the first fellowship of each month the best it can be. We will discuss any questions, ideas, concerns, activities, cuisine, and much more. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **865 4794 8810** and the Passcode is **Fellowship**.

Altar Guild Easter Preparations - March 30

The Christ Church Altar Guild invites all parishioners to join us in our Easter preparations. You can learn how we accomplish our tasks and help us prepare the sanctuary and altar for this most blessed time of year. Stop by New Brick on Saturday, March 30th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you!

Help Us Prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt

Just a heads-up: our Youth and Family Ministry can use hard-boiled eggs from parishioners so that we can decorate them and get them ready for the Easter Sunday Egg Hunt. Please drop off hard-boiled eggs on the days leading up to Saturday, March 30th. Ask Kiona for more info on Sunday, or watch this space for more details and drop-off locations in the coming weeks.

WOCC Upcoming News & Events

This is your final week to bring scarves, hats, and gloves for the Seafarers, as we'll be accepting donations until March 15th. The collection bin labeled "Seafarers" is on the table in the Tower Room by the Narthex. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting items, patterns can be found at the following link: <https://seamenschurch.org/programs-services/christmas-at-sea/patterns-publications>. The rest of the WOCC announcements - including a day trip to London Town and Gardens on March 23rd, and an April WOCC dinner meeting - are on our website's WOCC blog - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/wocc-s-march-news-and-events.

Communion to You

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.

Healing Stations

Christ Church now has healing stations during the 10:30 Eucharist at the back of the sanctuary. If you need prayer, we invite you to visit the healing station after receiving Communion. We also welcome those of you who wish to help, so if you are interested in joining a group of parishioners who offer healing prayer, email Rebecca Warlow at healingministry@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

The RDF typically helps fulfill the needs of those in our community. There are real people with real needs that we help support, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF 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.

Please Zoom Into Our Monthly Outreach Meeting on Monday, March 11

Learn many ways to help others by joining us remotely for the Outreach Commission meeting on Monday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m., when we hope to have a guest presentation about FISH. Our mission has a local, national, and international scope. [The Zoom link is HERE](#), the Meeting ID is **864 9837 1844** and the Passcode is **Outreach!** See you on Zoom!

Help Prepare or Serve a Meal to the Homeless on Monday, March 11

On the second Monday of each month, it's our turn to provide meals for the homeless at the Day Resource Center (DRC) in Jessup and the Live-In Facility on Freetown Road in Columbia, both operated by the [Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center](#). We most recently took part on Feb. 12 (*above image*).

To join us on Monday, March 11, please sign up by this Sunday, March 10. If you wish to volunteer or bring food for the midday meal, our [DRC online signup form](#) describes the procedure. Please drop off side dishes, desserts, and fruit by 12:45 p.m. in the Christ Church parking lot near Old Brick. In-person volunteers gather then to car-pool to Jessup at 1 p.m. Later, parishioners who cook or shop for the evening meal for 50 residents of Grassroots' Live-In Facility arrive in the Old Brick parking lot between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. Get details in our [Grassroots online signup form](#).

Grassroots staff serves the evening meal. It's efficient to provide for both venues on the same day. Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried chicken entrees. Thank you!

The Grassroots team at Christ Church is led by Shahra Toth, who once again stepped up to aid the DRC when it was short-handed on a recent weekend. Shahra and George Toth, who are both Outreach members, prepared and delivered pans of 30 eggs each, scrambled with cheese or ham ([see photos here](#)). The chilly weather on Saturday, Feb.17, was similar to the snowy Saturday in January when they last brought eggs for DRC's breakfast meal.

Grassroots has wider needs for its pantries, located at three sites. It welcomes in-kind donations to be dropped off for delivery on the second Mondays. Look for its [monthly needs list](#) on church bulletin boards or see "Related Files" on each signup form.

Columbia Community Care Plans Events on March 14 and March 16

Here are two save-the-dates for [Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC), which Christ Church has supported since June 2020, soon after its founding to help those in need during the travails of the pandemic. To mark its fourth anniversary, CCC will hold a recognition event on Thursday, March 14, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at The 3rd, 10215 Wincopin Circle, Suite 100, Columbia, MD 21044. Tickets cost \$75 each plus online registration fees. On CCC's [events page](#), the event is described as offering "Food, Drink, Entertainment, Fellowship, and Fun."

A mystery-themed fundraiser will be held Saturday, March 16, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 5485 Twin Knolls Rd., Columbia MD 21045. On CCC's [events page](#), the organization says, "\$10 of each ticket will go to food and resources for students and families in Columbia."

Admission is \$95 for an individual or \$85 for members of a group of four or a group of eight, plus online registration fees. Guests must be 21 or older. Admission includes a three-course dinner, tax, gratuity, free parking, and the program. "Sinister Speakeasy" is an interactive murder-mystery game conducted by Whodunnit for Hire.

Meanwhile, CCC has added paper towels and toilet paper to its list of needed essentials. Also please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put these 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.

Those who need groceries and other necessities can find information on times and locations of three Saturday distribution sites by going online to the ["I Need Help"](#) portion of CCC's website. Or learn how to volunteer at the sites or in other ways by visiting the ["I Can Help" portion of its website](#). Look for updates on the [CCC Facebook Group](#).

Look for the FISH Bin on the Breezeway near the Parish Hall

FISH of Howard County needs non-perishable foods and toiletries, which we collect in the basket at the altar or in a marked yellow bin on the breezeway between the Parish Hall and Old Brick. [FISH](#) provides committed support to select families in need. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

Refugee Ministry News

Please join members of our interfaith refugee ministry at a Refugee Shabbat at the Columbia Jewish Congregation on March 8th at 7:30 p.m. Naimatullah, the father in the "second family" of Afghan refugees we have connected with, will speak about the harrowing journey of his family's personal refugee experience. The service is at The Meeting House (the Oakland Mills interfaith center) in Oakland Mills, 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia. All are invited.

In other RM news, St. Andrews Episcopal in Glenelg is reaching out to sister parishes for assistance in finding two host families for two teenage Afghan refugees who are under their care. After spending nearly two years in a UAE refugee camp, Najiba and Faramarz received authorization to come to the U.S. in July 2023. Since then, they've lived with the former rector of St. Andrews and her family. They are currently in 9th grade at Glenelg High School but would relocate to a new school if needed. We seek families who can take them separately for at least one year, starting in June 2024. Please visit tinyurl.com/Najiba-Faramarz for more information on Najiba and Faramarz. If you might be interested in hosting and would like to learn more, please contact Deacon Denise at deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org

Help an Eagle Scout!

Jonah Aribiah, Christ Church parishioner, Youth Liason to the Vestry, and Eagle Scout with Troop 617, is looking for assistance to help complete his Eagle Scout Project. It involves the construction and installation of five raised garden beds that will benefit Homewood Center school, a Title 1 Howard County Public School, located in Columbia Maryland. Schools are designated as Title 1 schools if they have a large percentage of students from low income families and receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch meals. Being a Title 1 school, many of the students are from low-income families, and given the current high food prices, my project will be beneficial to the Homewood Center by providing the students a space where they can learn how to grow their own food and vegetables and transfer this knowledge to their home communities. This will go a long way in helping alleviate the food insecurity in the County. Growing ecology-friendly in-season food and providing a natural habitat for pollinators is also beneficial to the environment. If you are interested, please speak with Jonah on Sundays or email him at jaribiah@gmail.com.

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.

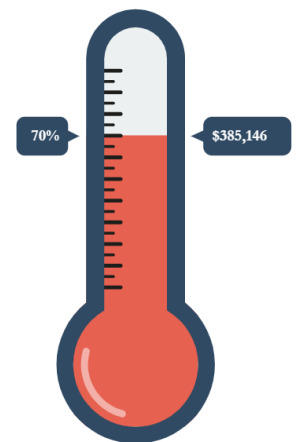
You can read the latest Vestry-approved report for January 2024 in the Gatherings.

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.

Stewardship 2024

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge

GOAL: \$550,000



Text Giving

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

Online Giving

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



Music as Prayer

“To sing is to pray twice,” is a well-known maxim often attributed to St. Augustine. Music is a vital part of many religious ceremonies. Bells or singing bowls are used in many eastern religious practices. In Europe and Western traditions, church music started with simple voices chanting and eventually developed into more complex songs and instrumental works. There is even a legend of a “secret chord” that King David (the writer of the Psalms) played that pleased God. As music in the secular world develops and changes, so too does music in the church, with different styles and practices coming in and out of fashion. Church music also varies by country, denomination, language, and even by region within countries.

During World War II, a Swiss Christian leader and theology student felt moved to try to make a difference in the world that was suffering so much. In 1940, Roger Schutz bought property in the countryside of war-torn France, in a town called Taizé. Here he prayed daily, helped to hide Jews escaping the Nazi regime, and then after the war ended, welcomed German prisoners. Brother Schutz believed that Christians must constantly respond to the changing times and changing needs around them. Fueled by Brother Schutz’s teachings, this Taizé community began to grow, with other theology students, Protestant and Catholic brothers, and young people from around the world making pilgrimages to the French countryside to pray together. As these Christians gathered, they often had difficulty learning the beautiful and complex French songs used during prayer. The community needed a way to allow everyone to join in, no matter what language they spoke.

1 Thessalonians 5: 17 tells us to “rejoice always” and “pray without ceasing.” There are many ways to approach this task. Many Christian denominations have morning and evening prayer. Catholics may be familiar with the rosary. Orthodox religions teach The Jesus Prayer as a way to concentrate and focus one’s inner thoughts while repeatedly praying, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” The community at Taizé built on these traditions and developed simple, repetitive chants, sung in many languages. These beautiful melodies are sung over and over, making them easy to learn on the spot. While singing in multiple languages, everyone will have a chance to sing in a comfortable language and everyone will have to work harder to sing an unfamiliar language. As the chants are repeated, instrumentalists add harmonies or complementary melodies. Singers become more confident and add alto and tenor harmonies. The repeated chants focus our thoughts and emotions, bringing the meaning not only to our thoughts, but to our hearts for a deeper understanding and prayerful experience.

Please join us on Sunday evenings during Lent at 6pm to experience this beautiful form of prayer and meditation at our Taizé Vespers services.

To learn more about The Jesus Prayer, visit <https://www.goarch.org/-/the-jesus-prayer>

To read an in-depth article about the Taizé community, visit <https://crcc.usc.edu/taize-a-musical-monastic-community-formed-in-response-to-a-global-crisis-faces-new-ones/>

You can read this post and see other related images on the Christ Church website at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/music-ministry-blog-march-2024

Larissa Sanders

Director of Music Ministry

Christ Episcopal Church

music@christchurchcolumbia.org



March

The Rend Collective (Christian Concert): March 17

Easter Egg Coloring & Decorating for Families with Children: March 30

Easter Egg Hunt: March 31

April

New Beginnings (Diocesan Retreat; 6th-12th Grade): April 19-21

Youth Sunday: April 28

SENIORS, Please have an outline or draft of your sermons ready by March 17th.

May

Mothers' Day Flower Arrangements & Sale: May 11

June

DreamBuilders Blitz-Building Mission Trip/Outreach: June 16-22

Mandatory for all confirmands.

\$700/person. DreamBuilders and Christ Church can offer scholarships.

Please register on their [website](#).

Questions?

Email kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

The Rev'd Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Jonah Aribiah (*Youth Liaison*)

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

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams