

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

First Sunday in Lent

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sunday, February 26, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. • 10:30 a.m.

Welcome Home!

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

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand as able.

The Great Litany |

Officiant O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, *People* Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *People* Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, *People* Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, *People* Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

People preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

Officiant From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,

People Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

People

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)

Officiant Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.
People Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

Officiant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.
 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

Officiant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.

Officiant O Christ, hear us. *People* O Christ, hear us.

Officiant Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
People Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. *or*
Officiant Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 Chri - ste e - lei - son.
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

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.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

Reader: A reading from Genesis.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 32 | *Beati quorum*

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Reader: A reading from Romans.

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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 142 | Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend and didst the vic - tory win,
3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra-cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

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

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

Sermon | The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed |

All: **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 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.

The Prayers of the People |

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 Robert, our Diocesan Bishops; Emmanuel, our Rector; Marcia, our Associate Priest; Denise, our Deacon; 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.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Cherrylynn, Roberta, Fr. Ginnever, Samuel, Catherine, Caroline, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, 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.

Intercessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, 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.

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

The Confession is omitted today due to the chanting of the Great Litany.

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 | Deep River

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Linda Spevacek

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.**

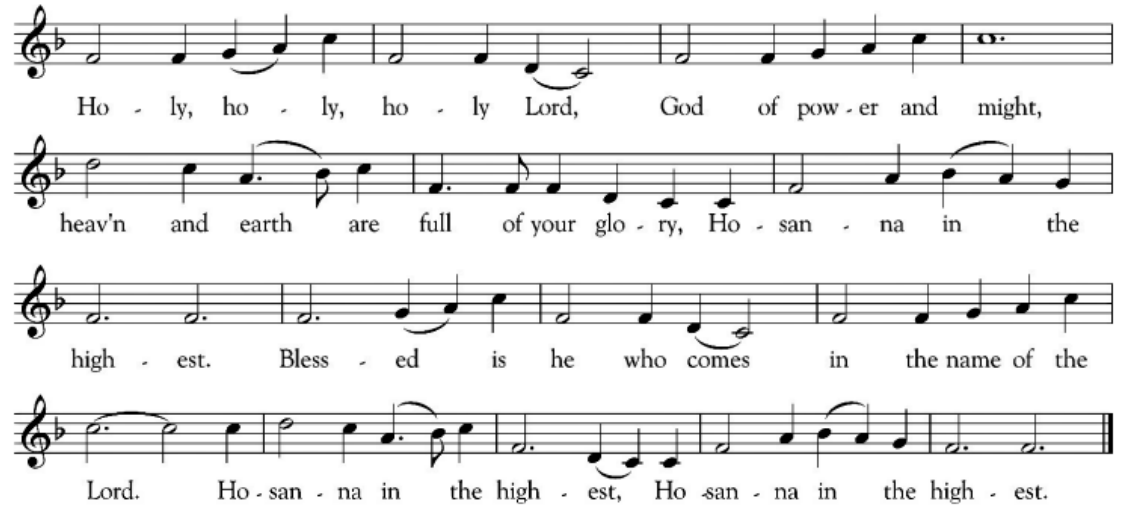
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.

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,



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 | 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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Agnus Dei |

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

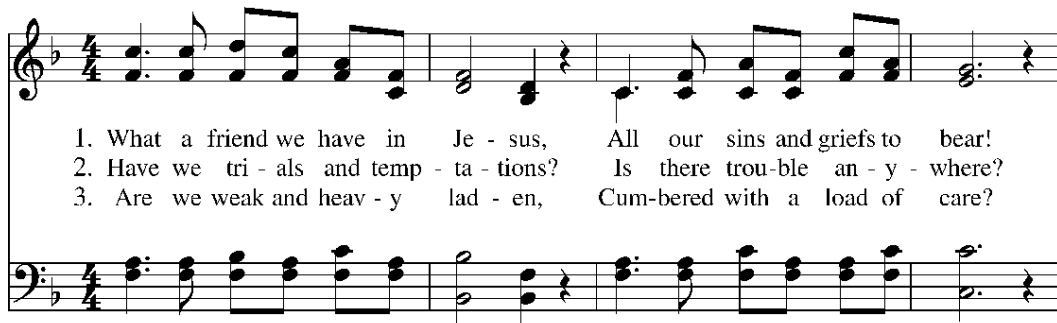
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

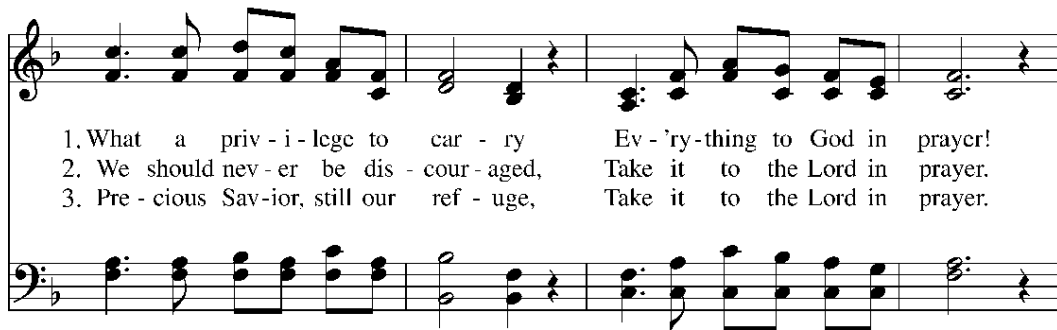
All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious 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.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 109 | What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Scriven & Converse



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



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



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



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

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Prayer | BCP 339

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 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 *5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The Dismissal |

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

(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

Postlude |

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Theo Jones-Quartey

Ushers: Jo Emily Knox, Yetti Lipede

Chalicerist: Theo Jones-Quartey

9:00 a.m. Service

Ushers: Eva & Hope Oladipupo, Yetti Lipede

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Steve Alpern

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, JB Hanson, Beth Johnson, Cherry Williams

Acolytes and Crucifer: Tele Abe. Caleb McKenna, Luke Aribiah

Chalicerist: Steve Alpern

Sunday School Breakfast: Simone Kolnik

6:00 p.m. Service

Dianne Phillips-LaGuerre

Pamela Pruitt

Altar Guild

Sonni Aribiah

Ivy Amponsah



**PARISH CALENDAR
FEBRUARY 26 TO MARCH 4**

Sunday, February 26

8:00 – 8:45 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 – 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Jazz Vespers – New Brick

Monday, February 27

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

Tuesday, February 28

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Japanese Play Group – Outside New Brick
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Vestry Meeting – Old Brick & Zoom

Wednesday, March 1

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

Thursday, March 2

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

Friday, March 3

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Taizé Service – Old Brick
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Christ Church Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, March 4

2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Lent I at Christ Church

The First Sunday in Lent has three worship services - join us for our Old Brick Eucharist at 8:00 a.m., Family Worship in New Brick at 9:00, or the 10:30 service with music and choir in the New Brick Sanctuary. As always, we'll livestream our 10:30 worship, which you can watch on our [website](#), [YouTube](#), or [Facebook](#) pages. Formation classes are also in session this Sunday, which you can read about below.

Youth Formation

Every child is welcome to take part in Youth Formation at 9:30, and you can find the details on [our website's Youth Formation page](#). Also on that page is a link to the Sunday School registration form, so please sign your children up so we can plan accordingly (use one form per child, please). If you have any questions, email Jennifer Atkins at sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Christ Church Youth Group (grades 5-12) also meets Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the basement of the Church Office building. If you are interested in having your child join the CECYG, please email Todd for more information - youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org

And you adults! Have you considered a calling to help nurture the youth of Christ Church? We are in need of more teachers and assistants now than ever! No experience is required - we will provide all the materials and you will be on a team with an experienced leader. If you are able to help - even just once a month - with this important ministry, [please email our Youth Minister, Todd Domer](#).

Adult Formation

Our Parenting Group gathers in the New Brick Vestry Room (lower level). Bible Study will meet in the Parish Hall Conference Room. Sunday Circle will be looking at the social and political issue of immigration through the lens of real-life stories presented by our multicultural Christ Church congregation. In our series, we will enrich our knowledge and connection with the immigrant story with personal sharing, poetry, short story, prayer, and 'digging deeper' material on the history and cultural roots of immigration policy in Western nations. Join us each Sunday in Old Brick at 9:30 a.m. or on Zoom. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is **847 9910 4117**, and the Password is **AFSC**. There are several options, and you're welcome to join any of them any Sunday. [See our Adult Formation page on the CEC website for more information](#).

Christ Church's Lent Details

[Our website's page with information about the 2023 Lenten season is live](#). There are many traditional services and gatherings, as well as several new ones, and we hope to see you at many of them! Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent often, as we update things there regularly.

Lenten Reflection Day - Saturday Morning

Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission presents Lenten Reflection Day this Saturday, February 25th. We are very blessed to have our own Seminarian Associate, Mike Looney, lead us in prayer and meditation as we deeply examine our 2023 theme, *Be an Instrument of God's Peace*. Lenten Reflection Day includes a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. followed by the day's program and wrapping up around 12 noon with an informal Eucharist. We hope that you'll find time to join us.

Many Thanks to the CEC Youth!

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a complete success earlier this week! The youth of our parish produced an absolutely wonderful celebration, a perfect way to start the season of Lent. Thanks, everyone! **You can see images from the evening's festivities on the *Latest Christ Church News* page.**

Jazz Vespers - Sunday Evening

Jazz Vespers is a unique service, a liturgy of Evening Prayer that combines scripture readings, prayer, silent meditation, and rich, live music provided by The Leister Quartet. Christ Church is offering this special service during this Lenten season with the hope of offering different opportunities for prayer, music, and reflection. There will be light refreshments after each worship, and all ages are welcome. Please join us Sundays at 6:00 p.m. for an evening of music, reflection, and prayer.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special gathering on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Also, please note that Centering Prayer is going to become a hybrid gathering sometime in March, so you can then join us either virtually or in-person. We'll let you know when we begin hosting CP in Old Brick. For now, you can use the Zoom link **here**; the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340** and the Passcode is **Centering!**

Lenten Supper Series – Wednesdays

One of the most cherished traditions at Christ Church during the season of Lent is our Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series. We are always thankful to the members of the Spiritual Life Commission, who work so hard to put this event together. This series offers five weeks of insightful and life-enriching seminars on our theme for this year, *Be an Instrument of God's Peace* - taken from St. Francis of Assisi's beautiful prayer. The guest presenter for this first week is Bishop Robert Ihloff, Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland. We begin at 6:30 p.m. with a communal supper in the Great Hall – this week, food is provided by the WOCC - and follow it with the evening's presentation. We then conclude with a brief Eucharist.

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

C'mon, all of you who like to sing! Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9 p.m. and everyone is welcome to take part! **You can find links to the registration forms on our website's Music Ministry page.** Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our choir! If you're interested, please speak with Larissa on Sunday or email her at **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

CEC Book Club - Fridays

During Lent, we will discuss *How Then Shall We Live? 4 Simple Questions that Reveal the Beauty and Meaning of our Lives* by Wayne Muller. Why not join us for an hour or so on Friday evenings for a lively discussion of this book? We are a friendly bunch and appreciate everyone's input and thoughts. The book can be purchased online at your favorite digital retailers. Interested? Email Ellen Hoke at **efboudreau1@gmail.com** or text her at 301-452-7115. Then simply log in to Zoom for an hour or so Friday evening - that link is **here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366** and the Passcode is **CECBooks**

WOCC Upcoming Events

Upcoming WOCC events: Wednesday, March 1 @ 6:00 p.m. - the Wednesday Evening Lenten Series meal will be provided by the WOCC; and Saturday, March 11th @ 10 a.m. - we'll have a Guided Labyrinth Walk at St. John's in Ellicott City. Look for details in upcoming news and information bulletins. Come and join us for these events. If you have other good ideas, please share them with us.

Also, save the date: The next WOCC Meeting is Monday, March 6 at 1:00 p.m. We will be meeting in person (NBL) and also via Zoom and will publish the link next week. You can reach us at WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org at any time.

The 2023 Pledge Envelopes Are Here

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

Christ Church's 300th Birthday

We are presently seeking parishioners to help with planning Christ Church's 300-Year Anniversary. This celebration is an important milestone for our church, and we want as much participation from each of us as possible. There are lots 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 would like more information, please contact Fr. Manny at revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org. Thank you.

Our Sunday Services Need Your Help

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

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

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

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

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

Election of Bishop Co-Adjutor, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

This important election is scheduled for March 25th at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City, and the slate of candidates is as follows:

- The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Canon to the Ordinary for Transition and Church Development, Diocese of Central New York
- The Rev. Alissa Newton, Canon for Congregational Development and Leadership Formation and Vicar, St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Kent, WA, Diocese of Olympia
- The Rev. Gregg Morris, Rector, St. Andrew's, Downers Grove, IL, Diocese of Chicago
- The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander Jr., Rector, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, VA, Diocese of Virginia

You can learn more about this process at <https://episcopalmaryland.org/bishop-search>

Christ Church Podcast - Later in 2023

In a recent *Gatherings*, Father Manny discussed the idea of creating a Christ Church Podcast, a homegrown, multimedia collaboration of our parish's many features, talents, and interests. That idea is gaining steam for a launch later this year, but we would love to involve some more people to help make this the best it can be. If you enjoy writing, are interested in researching the multilayered history of Christ Church, have an interest in audio production, like to shoot

videos on your phone or camera, enjoy composing, singing, or playing music, have a particular topic you'd like to share with others, love to draw or paint... we can find a place for each of you! We're meeting again in two weeks (date and time TBD) and you're invited to join us to see how you can be an important part of this new venture. If you'd like more information or are interested in joining us, please speak with **Fr. Manny, Ann Barnes**, or email Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Christ Church Parishioners' Donations of Items for Earthquake Survivors Go to Turkish Embassy

After a plea went out to Christ Church parishioners last week, a collection of items that included a new, handmade baby blanket was delivered to the **Turkish Embassy** on Saturday, Feb. 18, to help earthquake survivors. The embassy had asked for certain in-kind donations such as new or unused blankets, sleeping bags, mats, and tents. They are being flown daily to Türkiye, which is experiencing a bitterly cold winter.

On Feb. 6, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake and a secondary tremor soon afterward hit Türkiye and Syria, causing a death toll that is greater than 44,000, countless injuries, and massive destruction. The area was shaken by a 6.4-magnitude aftershock on Feb. 21.

When U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to Türkiye and met with Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Feb. 20, Blinken described donations he saw at the embassy. As recorded in the **official remarks**, he said: "The American people – communities, and businesses, as Mevlut said – have seen the heartbreaking images and they have been standing up, too. We have nearly \$80 million in donations from the private sector in the United States, individuals. When I visited the Turkish embassy in Washington, I almost couldn't get in the front door because boxes were piled high throughout the driveway to the embassy."

That's a similar scene that greeted Vestry and Outreach member Diane Phillips LaGuerre on Saturday, Feb. 18 when she delivered the donations from Christ Church to the Embassy (*see above photo*). It is located at 2525 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008. If you still wish to help but require transport of any new or unused items to the Embassy, please email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

For humanitarian relief efforts in Syria, the Outreach Commission earlier this month voted to contribute \$750 to UNICEF. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Heartfelt thanks go out to one and all who make this aid possible.

Buy Tickets by March 14 to Help Bridges to Housing Stability End Homelessness in Howard County

The clock is still ticking, but everyone has been given a few more days to buy tickets to the **"ChiliFest & Cornhole Tournament"** being held by **Bridges to Housing Stability**. Please take advantage of the recently extended deadline: Tuesday, March 14. The festive event takes place on Sunday, March 19, from 1- 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045.

Says Bridges Executive Director Jen Broderick: "We've had to make a few changes since the pandemic changed our world three years ago, but I think the revamped event is going to be just as much fun." Besides the cornhole competition, there will be live music by School of Rock and Long Reach High School Guitarists, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and an in-person auction that includes amazing baskets.

While there will be no chili cookoff, you can purchase tickets for chili meals prepared by Absolutely Perfect Catering (\$25 each) to be eaten at the event or for carryout. Choices are Texas-style beef chili, white bean turkey chili, and vegetarian chili. Parishioners are encouraged to participate (**Christ Church has won the "Golden Ladle" in the past for donations raised**).

With parishioners' generous support through contributions to Christ Church, we will be a "Tabasco" Level sponsor. The Outreach Commission at its Feb. 13 meeting voted to donate \$500 in Vestry-approved funds for Christ Church to become a sponsor.

Ticket purchases and individual contributions will also enhance our chances in this year's competition for a ladle award. Be sure to designate Christ Church when you purchase tickets online. Look for the green box labeled "Continue to your info." Next, choose the category "Individual" and look for the wording: "Credit the following congregation with my purchase." You'll find Christ Episcopal Church in the alphabetical dropdown list.

You also can purchase tickets (\$40 for 2 registrations) to compete as a team in the cornhole tournament. The cornhole competition will be outdoors, weather permitting.

For additional information and to place your order for meals or to compete in the cornhole tournament, click on **this link**. **Don't miss the March 14 deadline to buy tickets.** Let's go, Christ Church!

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

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

Turkish Embassy Collecting New Blankets, Sleeping Bags, Mats, and Tents

Many earthquake survivors lack shelter, and the Turkish Embassy has posted a plea for in-kind donations of new or unused blankets, sleeping bags, mats, and tents. They are being flown daily to Turkey, which is in the midst of a bitterly cold winter. You can take these items directly to the Embassy, which is located at 2525 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008. Or if you want to help but require assistance from someone else who can transport the purchased items to the Embassy, please email Christ Church Outreach at **outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Columbia Community Care Seeks Volunteers on Saturdays, Continues to Request Diapers, Personal Care Items

Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. Please look for updates, such as requests for volunteers on Saturday mornings, posted in the **CCC Facebook Group** or on the **"I Can Help" portion of its website**. For example, you'll find a need for volunteers to sort grocery items at the CCC pantry building, 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia.

Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put any of these in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

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

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

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

Stewardship

at Christ Church

**TIME
TALENT
TREASURE**

WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

Because of your genuine and overwhelming acts of selflessness, kindness, grace, compassion, and love, you continue to give immensely to support and build our common life at Christ Church. You inject life into Christ Church so that we may be able to serve the world. It is your giving that has made it possible for us to accomplish some of the work that God has given us. The truth is that we have been able to minister and serve countless people because of your faithfulness, and for that, we thank God for each one of you and thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

We also 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**

Pledge for 2023

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



Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.

GENESIS 3:19

Lent - Being In Touch With Our Earthiness

Christians, over many centuries, have dedicated themselves to prayer, fasting, penance, self-denial, and almsgiving during Lent, mainly to identify ourselves with the suffering that Jesus endured in the wilderness when after his baptism, the Spirit drove him into the desert for forty days and forty nights. These spiritual practices more than renew us, they situate our minds on some of the fundamental exercises that help us get in touch with our earthiness.

On Ash Wednesday, we heard these solemn words: ***Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*** These solemn words take us back to the creation story, where scripture reminds us that God created humanity out of the dust of the ground - earth, dirt, soil, call it what you may - for that is what we are. And in fact, there hasn't been any contrary conclusion to suggest that we are other than what we are - dust. That is why Lent is such an important season.

During this season I am reminded of some of the thoughts of Hildegard of Bingen:

Holy persons draw to themselves all that is earthly...

The earth is at the same time mother,

She is mother of all that is natural,

Mother of all that is human,

She is mother of all,

For contained in her

Are the seeds of all.

To be holy is to draw to ourselves that which is earthy because there is something incredibly noble about being earthy. In fact, it takes a great deal of humility to acknowledge our earthiness, and oftentimes that is what makes all the difference in our lives and those of our loved ones. The joy in being earthy is that the moment we are able to embrace that part of who we are as people of the soil, earth, or dirt, we become free.

(continued)

That freedom comes from our deep knowledge of Jesus Christ. Listen to John: *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* To be free indeed is to know that you can choose your own cross but that it is not by your power that you carry that cross. Pride makes you think you carry the cross by yourself. But remember, even Jesus couldn't carry his own cross; Simone of Cyrene was compelled by the Romans to carry Jesus' cross. More than that, Jesus relied solely on God to carry his cross and offered his life for us. To be free is to know who it is that helps you with the cross you choose-and it really doesn't matter how big or small, heavy or light your cross is.

Here's a story for you:

One man complained that his life is too hard for him. He came to God, told him about his troubles, and asked:

Can I choose another cross for myself?

God looked at him smiling, took him to the store of crosses, and said:

Choose...

The man came into the store, looked around, and was surprised. There is such a great variety of crosses – little, big, medium, heavy, and light.

The man walked by the store for a long time, looking for the littlest and lightest cross, and when he finally found it, he came to God and asked:

May I take this one?

Yes, you may – answered God – It is your own cross.

The interesting part of this story is that this man didn't come to God asking how God could help him carry his cross. He wanted a new cross because he thought he is supposed to carry his cross by himself - but that isn't and shouldn't be the case. This is a classic example of someone who isn't in touch with their earthiness and so hasn't tasted the abundant life that Jesus offers.

To taste the abundant life that Christ offers is to be in touch with yourself, to be in touch with your earthiness - the dust that you are. More than that, it is to know that you do not carry your cross all by yourself. Someone - God - helps you carry your cross.

That, to me, is the one assurance that we have - in spite of our earthiness.

Manny



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES

6:30 P.M. IN THE GREAT HALL OF NEW BRICK

MARCH 1: THE RIGHT REVEREND ROBERT IHLOFF

ASSISTING BISHOP, DIOCESE OF MARYLAND



WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/LENT

Christ Church's Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series

Presented by the Spiritual Life Commission

Each week at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of New Brick

One of the most cherished traditions at Christ Church during the season of Lent is the Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series, one of the most enriching experiences of the season. We are always thankful to the members of the Spiritual Life Commission, who work so hard to put this event together. This series offers five weeks of insightful and life-transforming seminars on our theme for this year, *Be an Instrument of God's Peace* - taken from St. Francis of Assisi's beautiful prayer.

The clergy presenters for this year's series are:

March 1: Bishop Robert Ihloff - Assisting Bishop, Diocese of Maryland

March 8: Jane O'Leary - Archdeacon, Diocese of Maryland

March 15: Kristin Krantz - Rector, St James' Mt Airy, and Director of the College for Congregational Development

March 22: Monique Ellison - Priest-in-Charge at St. Matthias Episcopal and Church of the Messiah in Baltimore, and Chaplain to the Bishop Search Committee

March 29: Emmanuel Mercer - Rector, Christ Episcopal Church, Columbia

We begin the evening at 6:30 p.m. with a communal supper in the Great Hall - each week, a different ministry will provide the potluck meal - followed by our guest presenter. The evening then concludes with a brief, informal Eucharist.



Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Vestry

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

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

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