



**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST  
**THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I**  
8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, March 8, 2026 | Third Sunday in Lent



**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:  
[www.christchurchcolumbia.org](http://www.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.

PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN 143 | The Glory of These Forty Days

*Erhalt uns, Herr*



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full  
 \* 5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
 2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
 4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en  
 5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.  
 5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

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

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**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*People:* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*Christ, have mercy upon us.*  
 Lord, have mercy upon us

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON | Exodus 17:1-7

*Reader: A reading from Exodus.*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

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

## THE PSALM

Psalm 95 | *Venite, exultemus (Invitation to praise)*



Come, let us sing to the <sup>1</sup> Lord; |  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal<sup>1</sup>vation. ||

Let us come before his presence with <sup>1</sup> thanksgiving |  
and raise a loud shout to him with <sup>1</sup> psalms. ||

For the Lord is a great <sup>1</sup> God |  
**and a great King above all <sup>1</sup> gods. ||**

In his hand are the caverns of the <sup>1</sup> earth, |  
**and the heights of the hills are his <sup>1</sup> also. ||**

The sea is his, for he <sup>1</sup> made it, |  
**and his hands have molded the dry <sup>1</sup> land. ||**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the <sup>1</sup> knee, |  
**and kneel before the Lord our <sup>1</sup> Maker. ||**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his <sup>1</sup> hand. |  
**Oh, that today you would hearken to his <sup>1</sup> voice! ||**

Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the <sup>1</sup> wilderness, |  
**at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they <sup>1</sup> tempted me. ||**

They put me to the <sup>1</sup> test, |  
**though they had seen my <sup>1</sup> works. ||**  
Forty years long I detested that generation and <sup>1</sup> said, |  
**“This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my <sup>1</sup> ways,” ||**

So I swore in my <sup>1</sup> wrath, |  
**“They shall not enter into my <sup>1</sup> rest.” ||**

## **THE EPISTLE** | Romans 5:1-11

Reader: *A reading from Romans.*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as able.*

1. Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, Where bright an-gel feet have trod;—  
 2. On the mar-gin of the riv-er, Wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,—  
 3. Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, Lay we ev-'ry bur-den down;—  
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, Soon our pil-grim-age will cease,—

1. With its crys-tal tide for-ev-er Flow-ing by the throne of God?  
 2. We will walk and wor-ship ev-er, All the hap-py gold-en day.  
 3. Grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, And pro-vide a robe and crown.  
 4. Soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er With the mel-o-dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, The beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er That flows by the throne of God.

**THE GOSPEL** | John 4:5-42

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

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

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

(continued)

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

*Celebrant:*       The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:*         **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

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

13 mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

THE SERMON | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

*The people stand as able.*

## THE NICENE CREED |

***Alt:*** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

*(continued)*

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |**

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

Almighty and ever living 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 Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. 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 our leaders; 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 Brayden, Roger, Kristin, Carol, Greg, Kimberley, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Natasha, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Priscilla, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those who care for them.

*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 especially Mollie McCoy and those you now name, 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. **AMEN**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN |**

*You may step forward to the altar for a blessing from the Celebrant.*

*Celebrant:* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**All:** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy 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.**

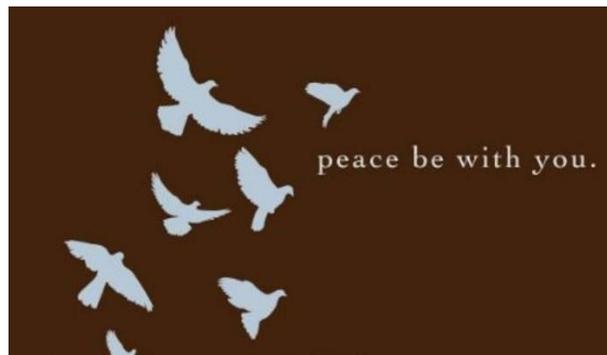
Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.  
If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.  
*1 John 2:1-2*

## 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 |

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM |** How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

*Vernon Hoyle*

*Please scan to give.*



**DOXOLOGY 380 vs 3 |**

*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

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



# THE HOLY COMMUNION



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I |

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

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

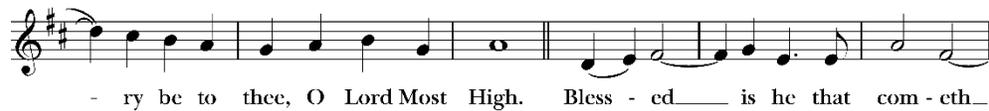
*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*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. ...

Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

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."

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.

**AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER |**

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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;  
*People:* Therefore, let us keep the feast.

### FRACTION ANTHEM S158 | Lamb of God

*from Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan*

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 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*  
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

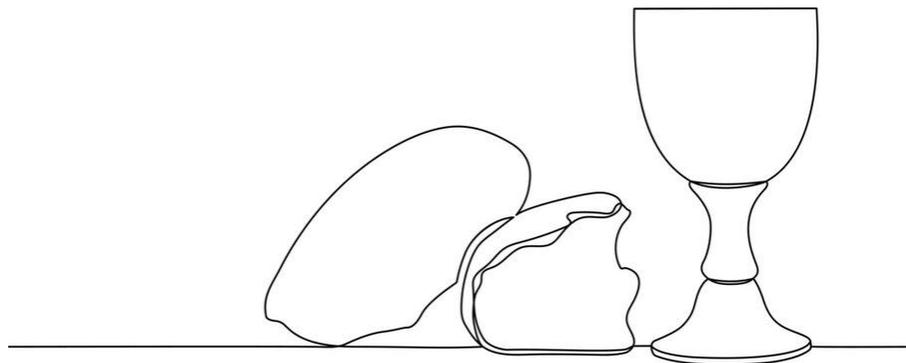
O Lord, have mer - cy on me. \_\_\_\_\_

3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*  
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. \_\_\_\_\_



**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.

**EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service**

*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.

**THE BLESSING |**

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

**CLOSING HYMN 692 | I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

*The Third Tune*

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

and in your wea - ri - ness lay down your head up - on my breast."  
 the liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop down and drink, and live."  
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun;

I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
 and in that light of life I'll walk till pil - grim days are done.

THE DISMISSAL |

*The Celebrant 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

**Chalicer:**

**Lector/Reader:** Ronald Baran

**Ushers:** Michon Semon, Nancy Winchester

### 10:30 a.m. Service

**Acolytes :** Lucinda Hart, Ava Fox, Aston Fox

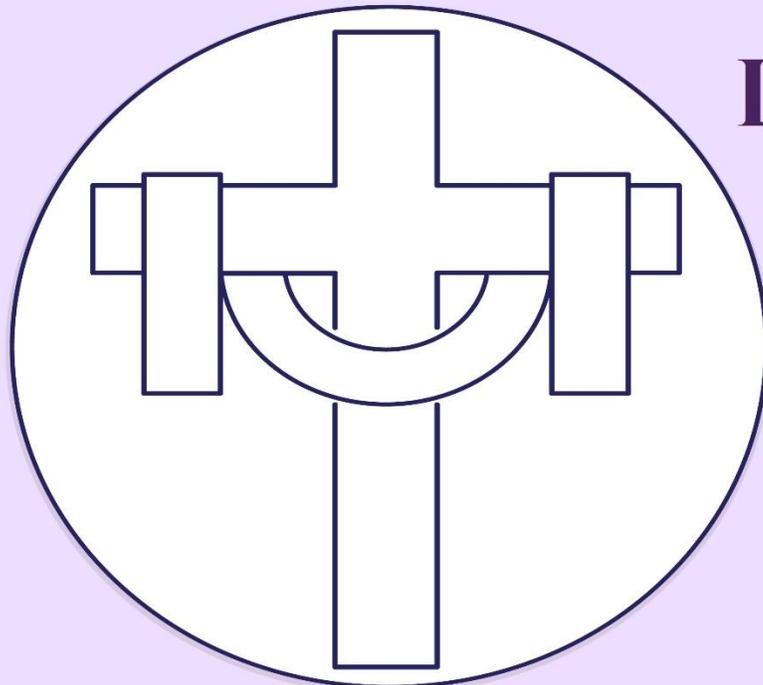
**Chalicer:** Theo Jones-Quartey

**Lector/Reader:** Theo Jones-Quartey, James Mercer

**Ushers:** Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,  
Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

**Altar Guild:** Cheryl Lucente, Leigh Smith, Pamela Foreman

**Tellers:** Amanda Kirkpatrick, Andy DeLong



GATHER WITH US FOR  
**LENTEN TAIZÉ**  
**VESPERS**  
TONIGHT AT  
**6 P.M.**  
**IN NEW BRICK**



# PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 8 – 14, 2026

## Sunday, March 8

8:45 am – 9:30 am Coffee Hour  
9:00 am – 9:30 am Family Worship – New Brick, UL  
9:30 am – 10:30 am Sunday School, Sunday Circle  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL  
1:00 – 5:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom & Parish Hall, CR  
6:00 – 7:30 pm Lenten Vespers – New Brick, UL

## Monday, March 9

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
12:45 – 1:00 pm Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off – Parish Hall parking lot  
1:00 – 4:00 pm Meal for Rt. 1 – Parish Hall parking lot  
3:15 – 3:30 pm Grassroots Drop-off – Parish Hall parking lot  
6:00 – 8:30 pm Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL  
7:00 – 8:00 pm Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom  
7:30 – 9:00 pm Outreach Meeting – Zoom  
7:30 – 9:00 pm 300 Yr Anniversary Meeting – Zoom  
7:30 – 9:00 pm Outreach Meeting – Zoom  
7:30 – 10:00 pm Columbia Conjurers – Parish Hall, LL  
8:00 – 8:30 pm Lenten Compline with Mtr. Marcia – Facebook, YouTube, Website

## Tuesday, March 10

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting  
7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club – Zoom

## Wednesday, March 11

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
5:30 – 6:30 pm Refugee Leadership Meeting – Zoom  
6:00 – 9:00 pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, LL

## Thursday, March 12

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
12:00 – 1:00 pm Lenten Healing Eucharist – Old Brick  
6:30 – 9:30 pm Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 – 9:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom  
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

## Friday, March 13

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream  
7:00 – 9:00 pm “Hidden Figures” film screening – Parish Hall, LL  
8:00 – 8:30 pm Lenten Compline with Mtr. Marcia – Facebook, YouTube, Website

## Saturday, March 14

8:30 am – 12:30 pm Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN)  
9:00 – 11:00 am “Amistad” film screening – Parish Hall, LL  
10:30 – 12:30 pm Winter Exercise Group – New Brick, LL  
2:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL  
2:30 – 8:00 pm Nina Li Recital - New Brick, UL  
3:30 – 4:30 pm Altar Guild prep  
5:00 – 11:00 pm Nyarko Event – New Brick, LL



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to share with the church,  
Please send to [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org) by Tuesday evening.



*SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS*

### Christ Church Sunday School Helps LEMS - This Sunday

On Sunday, March 8, the younger Sunday school students and their parents will gather to assemble snack bags for LEMS instead of holding classes. Please come ready to help with this project for Lent!

### Lenten Taizé Vespers - This Evening

Vespers is a liturgy of Evening Prayer that combines scripture readings, prayer, silent meditation, and rich music. Each Sunday evening, Christ Church offers a service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France. It offers this special service on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. in New Brick, offering different opportunities for prayer, music, and reflection. This worship of reflection offers a chance to meditate on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way.

### LENT at Christ Church

Our [Lent at Christ Church](#) page contains details for our worship, formation, and fellowship gatherings throughout the season. This is also where you can read our Daily Lenten Meditations, which will be published every weekday morning, both there and on our Instagram and Facebook pages. In addition to those, we'll have an inspirational *Saturday Song* posted every weekend, as well - something to enjoy, to lift your spirits, and to comfort your heart. We hope you'll find it a useful part of your Lenten journey.

### Other Ways to Enrich Your Lenten Journey

This year, Christ Church also provides additional online resources to further enrich your Lenten experience. In addition to our [Daily Lenten Meditations](#), you can also visit our website for a link to The Episcopal Church's Lectionary calendar, where you can find Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel readings. The second resource on our page is provided by Sister Monica Clare, an Episcopal nun and author - **and unlikely TikTok star**. She invites us to rediscover—or deepen—habits of prayer, worship, and engagement with Scripture. These "holy habits" provide a path to a life shaped, given meaning, and directed by a deeper relationship with God. Visit the Christ Church website at [www.christchurchcolumbia.org/other-lenten-resources](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/other-lenten-resources) for these links and details.

### Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is 817 6254 3177, and the Passcode is CP. You can also ask for more information by emailing [centering@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:centering@christchurchcolumbia.org).

### Lenten Evening Compline with Mother Marcia - Mondays and Fridays during Lent

Beginning this Friday, the Rev. Marcia Davenport leads this series of online worship, a Christ Church tradition that you can

participate in from wherever you are. Each service is unique, featuring liturgy from a different prayer book, and contains Mother Marcia's personal reflections and messages written expressly for this series and relevant to the Lenten season. You can find these streams on our website, YouTube, and Facebook pages at 8:00 p.m. Monday and Fridays throughout Lent, or you can tune in any time afterwards. Begin and end each busy week with a peaceful evening of Lenten worship.

### **A NEW BOOK at Christ Church Book Club - Tuesdays**

The Christ Church Book Club is an informal online conversation that decides on a book and discusses it as a group, offering different perspectives and experiences. We've just begun a new book for Lent, called ***God's Joyful Surprise: Finding Yourself Loved by Sue Monk Kidd***, so how about you experience it with us? We read a chapter or two each week and discuss on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Email [bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org) and join us!

### **The Rev. Tim Grayson is at Christ Church's WELS - Next Wednesday, March 5**

Each year, the Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series is one of the most enriching experiences of the season. We are always thankful to the members of Christ Church's **Spiritual Life Commission**, who work so hard to put this, and other, events together. The WELS series offers five weeks of insightful, life-transforming seminars.

Next Wednesday, we are please to welcome back The Rev. Tim Grayson, who will present his perspective on our 2026 Spiritual Life Theme, ***Building Relationships through LOVE***. We begin each evening at 6:30 p.m. with a communal supper in the Great Hall, followed by our guest presenter. The evening then concludes with a brief, informal Eucharist. There's no other series like this at Christ Church throughout the year, and we highly encourage you to gather with us for this unique discussion and fellowship.

### **Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursdays**

Each Thursday during Lent, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick. Our clergy will lead this week's service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

### **Christ Church Choir - Thursdays**

C'mon, all you singers and music lovers! Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick, and everyone is welcome to take part. 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 Vocal or Handbell Choirs! If you're interested, please email [music@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org)

### **Start Yourself on a Healthier Path in 2026 - Saturdays**

Most of us would like to be "healthier" in many ways, but we also know how difficult it can be to begin the journey, so Christ Church is making it a little easier. Jane Adams, Christ Church parishioner and certified instructor, leads a basic exercise class every Saturday morning, a way to comfortably and safely get your body accustomed to a path of fitness and good health. She will provide resistance bands and all other accessories needed for this hour-long session; all you need to do is wear comfortable sportswear and sneakers, and bring a bottle of water. Gather with us this Saturday morning at 10:30 in the lower level of New Brick, and get started on the road to exercise under the guidance of a professional who can help you listen to and respect

your body by adjusting your practice without forcing it. With regular exercise, your physical and mental abilities will naturally and steadily improve.

### **Film Doubleheader Weekend – March 13 & 14**

Another double feature is coming to Christ Church on March 13 & 14, with *Hidden Figures* ([trailer](#)) being screened on Friday, March 13th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Building's lower level in support of Women's History Month. Then at the Center for Spiritual Nourishment on Saturday, March 14, the film *Amistad* ([trailer](#)) is shown in the Church Office Conference Room (upper level) at 9:00 a.m. Bring movie munchies (or pastries on Saturday) to share. See you at either showing!

### **MOCC Monthly Breakfast - Saturday, March 21**

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition. This month, it will take place on Saturday, March 21 at Silver Diner. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome. See you there!

### **WOCC at Toby's Dinner Theatre - April 17**

Next up: a night at Toby's! Join us for *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday, April 17. Family and friends are welcome to a night of food and fun as we gather at 6:00 p.m. for the buffet dinner, followed by the feature production. The cost is \$85. for adults and \$81. for children, and you can pay via Realm (write *TOBY'S* in the memo line). You can sign up in the Narthex, and must do so by next Sunday, March 15th.

### **Family Night Out! - Friday, March 27**

Gather the crew and lace up those bowling shoes - it's time for a night of fellowship, strikes, and spares! Whether you're a pro or just here for the snacks, we want to see you there on Friday, March 27, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your family! Bring your friends! Just bring yourself! Everyone is welcome. Meet us at Lucky Strike Columbia - 7100 Carved Stone Rd. Columbia, MD 21045. Let us know by emailing [MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org), or speak with Duane at church, so he can reserve the right amount of bowling space.

### **Find a Ministry that's Right for You**

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others. None of these requires weekly assistance - they only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email [altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org). For Inreach, please email [inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org) (or [visit their website page](#)). You can also call the Church Office at [office@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org).

### **Nursery Care Assistant Still Needed**

Christ Church is seeking a Nursery Care Assistant to help with our youngest members of our parish family during Sunday services and other special events. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this position, please have them contact Amanda Kirkpatrick, Christ Church's Nursery Care Coordinator, at [nursery@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:nursery@christchurchcolumbia.org). Be sure to place "Nursery Care Assistant" in the subject line of your email. You can also call the church office and let them know. Thank you.



**Christ Episcopal Church**

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[www.christchurchcolumbia.org](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org)

[office@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org)

The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*  
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*  
The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*  
The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*  
Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*  
Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*  
Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*  
Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*  
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*  
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*  
John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

**Vestry**

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson